

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke

Janet Vawter

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp

Bob Gammon

Emily Mayne

Moderator: John Michael Krech

Clerk: Becky Stirling

Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon

Sharon Ragghianti

Becky Stirling

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Organist	Susan Steppe, susansteppe@comcast.net
Director of Technical Services	Bob Vawter, bvawter@bellsouth.net
Director of Children & Youth Ministry	Cristaldawn Smith, revmiss2002@yahoo.com
Nursery Attendants	Kathe Walker & Judy Thigpun
Financial Administrator/Admin Asst.	Betsy Lewis, blewis@grace-pres.org
Sexton	Scott Hunter
Director of Grace Pres. Child Care	Jill Bailey, childcare@grace-pres.org

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Please consider Grace Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.



Grace Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA),
Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters.

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

November 28, 2021

The First Sunday in Advent

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

The Trumpet Shall Sound (*Messiah*) G.F. Handel, 1742
arr. Lani Smith

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni Emmanuel

Opening Sentences

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)
Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the First Candle in the Advent Wreath

Rickie and Kathy Cooke

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, stand to sing:

**O come, Thou branch of *Jes-se's* tree, Free them from Satan's *ty-ranny*
That trust Thy mighty *pow-er* to save, And give them victory *o'er* the grave.
Rejoice; rejoice. *Emmanuel* shall come to thee, O *Israel*.**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Passing of the Peace ((Worshippers safely greet one another with the peace
of Christ, and then sit for the announcements.)

Welcome and Announcements

The children bring their ringing collection and come to the Chrismon Tree for a
Time for Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10 Unison

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust.

Do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me;

for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,

and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions.

According to your steadfast love

remember me for your goodness' sake, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right

and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Anthem O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/ O Come, Divine Messiah

Traditional French Carol arr. by Stephen DeCesare

Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 6 Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending Helmsley

The congregation sits.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Sermon

Seeing Face to Face

Mike Krech

“Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.”
1 Thess. 3:10

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates Truro

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis Refrain of Hymn 23 Gloria

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Picardy; 4th century)

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 17 Sleepers, Wake, a Voice Astounds Us Wacht Auf

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude,
or you may depart the sanctuary quietly now if you need to.

Postlude Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending (Helmsley)
arr. Stephen Burtonwood

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today begins the season of **Advent**, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Some signs of the season in the sanctuary and in worship include the **purple** paraments, purple being the color of preparation and royalty, the **Advent wreath**, with four candles marking the four Sundays of the season, the **Chrismon tree**, decorated with Christ Monograms, symbols of Christ's birth and rule, the singing of a stanza of **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** following the advent wreath candle lighting service and singing the **Gloria in Excelsis** from the refrain of the familiar Hymn 23, Angels We Have Heard on High. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Text: Latin, c.12th century;

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854;

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916;

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL;

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854; Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Jesus comes with clouds descending; See the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending Join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ the Lord returns to reign!

Every eye shall then behold You Robed in awesome majesty;
Those who jeered and mocked and sold you, Pierced and nailed You to the tree,
Shamed and grieving, shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving,
Shall their true Messiah see.

Yes, Amen! Let all adore You High on your eternal throne;
Crowns and empires fall before You, Claim the kingdom for Your own:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,
Everlasting Christ, come down!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1758, alt;

Tune: HELMSLEY;

Thomas Olivers, 1763; Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Text: Georg Weisell, 1642; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;

Tune: TRURO;

Thomas Williams, 1789; Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us; The shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight's peace their cry has broken, Their urgent summons clearly spoken:

“The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up and give us light; The Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there, That you the wedding feast may share.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing, Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
She wakes and hurries through the night.

Forth He comes, her Bridegroom glorious In strength of grace, in truth victorious:
Her star is risen, her light grows bright.

Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia!

We follow all and heed Your call To come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore You; Let saints and angels sing before You,
As harps and cymbals swell the sound.

Twelve great pearls, the city's portals: Through them we stream to join the immortals
As we with joy Your throne surround.

No eye has known the sight, No ear heard such delight: Alleluia!

Therefore we sing to greet our King; Forever let our praises ring.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Tune: WACHET AUF;

attr. Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. J.S. Bach, 1731