

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 in Word and Sacrament at 5:00 p.m.
December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Festal Fanfare from the Fourth Concerto

J. S. Bach

Arr. Van Denman Thompson

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

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**.)
O God, give us such love and wonder that with shepherds, magi, and pilgrims unknown,
we may come to adore the holy child, the promised King, and with our gifts worship
him, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Krech/Mayne Family

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

Hymn 28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

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 offering and come to the Chrismon Tree for a
Time for Young Christians

Anthem O, Holy Night Adolphe Adam, 1847; arr. Gary Burch
Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

Prayer for Illumination Akwi Lillian Aseh

Old Testament Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 96:1-4a,11-13 Unison

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord; bless God's name;

tell of God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it. Let the field exult and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.

For the Lord is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Anthem Mary, Did You Know? Mark Lowry, 1984
Daniel Whitaker, soloist

Epistle Titus 2:11-14

Anthem Angels We Have Heard on High French Carol
Grace Notes Hand Bell Choir

Gospel Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

Worship Christ the Newborn King Cameroon Carol
(See hymn 22 for the text)
Cameroonian Ensemble

Sermon The Ghosts of Christmas Past Mike Krech
"But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 25 Away in a Manger Mueller

Nicene Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 15, Ecumenical

Gloria in Excelsis Refrain of Hymn 23 Gloria

The congregation sits.

An Evening Prayer

Offertory For Unto Us A Child is Born

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

The congregation sits.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Please observe physical distancing of six feet as you come to the tables.

Please give the person in front of you adequate time for a reverent Communion.

Carefully take a piece of bread and consume it safely, away from the bread tray.

If you choose also to receive the cup, drink away from the cup tray.

Place the empty cup in the basket provided.

All Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament.

The pastor offers a prayer of spiritual Communion for those not receiving.

Organ during Communion

Pastoral Symphony (from Messiah) G.F. Handel, 1742; arr. Virgil Fox

The Light of Christ Spreads Among the Faithful

After the Passing of the Light Silent Night Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night! All is calm all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly host sing alleluia. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing

Alleluias to our King: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion and Benediction

Worshippers carefully depart the partially darkened sanctuary, or remain for prayer.

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye. O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels. O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1740; Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841;
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES; John Francis Wade, c. 1740;
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.
He hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin; Trans. and Para. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.;
Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO; German folk tune, 14th century;
Harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885; Stanza 3, Gabriel's *Vineyard Songs*, 1892;

Tune: MUELLER; Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; Harm. John Weaver, 1986

Silent Night (also in the bulletin)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly host sing alleluia. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing
Alleluias to our King: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;

Tune: STILLE NACHT; Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818