

## CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp

Emily Mayne

### Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon

Sharon Ragghianti

Becky Stirling

Moderator: John Michael Krech

Clerk: Becky Stirling

Treasurer: Jere Lawson

### Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh

Susie Hayes

Janet Vawter

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Organist/Choirmaster	Susan Steppe, susansteppe@comcast.net
Director Tech. Services/Instrumental Music	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

### Grace Presbyterian Church

6671 Yale Road

Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-3241

[www.grace-pres.org](http://www.grace-pres.org)

[www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett](https://www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett)

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.

December 11, 2022

The Third Sunday in Advent

### The Bell Calls Us to Worship

#### Prelude

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns/

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus arr. Stephen DeCesare

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

#### The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 7 Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth Mit Freuden Zart

#### 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 sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son. Grant us wisdom to see your purposes and openness to hear your will, that we also may prepare the way for Christ, who is coming in power and glory to establish his kingdom of peace; through Jesus Christ our Judge and Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

#### Lighting Candles in the Advent Wreath

A.Z., Akong, Mirella, and Gavriel Ndingwan

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

**O come, Thou Key of *Da*-vid, come, And open wide our *heav'n*-ly home;**

**Make safe the way that *leads* on high, And close the path to *mis*-ery.**

**Rejoice; rejoice. *Emmanuel* shall come to thee, O *Is*-rael.**

**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**

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 3** Comfort, Comfort You My People Psalm 42

The congregation sits.

## Prayer for Illumination

### Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

### Psalm 146:5-10

Unison

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers,  
upholding the orphan and the widow,  
but bringing to ruin the way of the wicked.

The Lord will reign forever; your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

**Anthem** Prepare Thyself, Zion (Christmas Oratorio) J.S. Bach

Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection, the purest, the fairest, this day to receive.

Sung by Emily Mayne, Susan Steppe, Daniel Whitaker

## Epistle

James 5:7-10

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 20** Watchman, Tell Us of the Night St. George's, Windsor

The congregation sits.

## Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

## Sermon

Questions from Prison

Mike Krech

“When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word... ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’”  
Matthew 11:2a,3b

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 13** Prepare the Way Bereden Väg För Herran

**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** The Desert Shall Rejoice/Savior of the Nations, Come

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology 592** Old Hundredth

## Benediction

**Hymn 44** O Little Town of Bethlehem St. Louis

Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,  
or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and quickly now if necessary.

**Postlude** Go, Tell It on the Mountain arr. David Lowe

## Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we continue the season of **Advent**, the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Signs of the season 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. May you have a blessed Advent and, in the fullness of time, a merry Christmas.

JMK

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

Lord Christ, when first You came to earth, Upon a cross they bound You.  
And mocked Your saving kingship then, By thorns with which they crowned You.  
And still our wrongs may weave You now New thorns to pierce that steady brow,  
And robe of sorrow round You.

O wondrous love, which found no room In life, where sin denied You,  
And, doomed to death, must bring to doom The power which crucified You,  
Till not a stone was left on stone, And all a nation's pride o'erthrown,  
Went down to dust beside You.

New advent of the love of Christ, shall we again refuse You,  
Till in the night of hate and war We perish as we lose You?  
From old un-faith our souls release To seek the kingdom of Your peace,  
By which alone we choose You.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us Your new creation;  
Our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, We wait Your revelation.  
O Love that triumphs over loss, We bring our hearts before Your cross;  
Come, finish Your salvation.

Text: Walter Russell Bowie, 1928; alt.

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART; Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

### Comfort, Comfort You My People

Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness Bowed beneath oppression's load.  
Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling In the desert far and near,  
Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise in meeting And the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Tune: PSALM 42; Genevan Psalter, 1551

### **Watchman, Tell Us of the Night**

Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night, Higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight, Doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let your wanderings cease; Hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come!

Text: John Bowring, 1825; alt, 1972

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR; George Job Elvey, 1859

### **Prepare the Way**

Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley A level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.  
Christ brings God's rule, O Zion, He comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace.  
And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847); Adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980; alt. 1989;

Tune BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN;

*Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; Arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see Thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven,  
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1868;

Tune: ST. LOUIS; Lewis Henry Rudner, 1868