

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

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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 through Lessons and Carols at 11:00 a.m.

December 18, 2022

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude For Unto Us a Child Is Born (Messiah) G.F. Handel, 1742

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 22 Angels from the Realms of Glory Regent Square

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**.)

God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the Candles in the Advent Wreath

Matthew, Cristaldawn, Nathaniel, Lydia Smith

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, Who orders all things *might-ily*;

To us the path of *know*-ledge show, And teach us in her *ways* to go.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

First Lesson Genesis 3:1-15

Musical Meditation Joy to the World/Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee
Handel/Beethoven; arr. Gary Lanier, 2017
Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, organ

The oracle foresees the bright descendant of Jacob.

Second Lesson Read by Becky Stirling Numbers 24:15-19

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 69 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Wie Schön Leuchtet
The congregation sits.

The promised King will establish a righteous reign.

Third Lesson Read by Suzanne Getman Isaiah 9:1-7

Anthem Promises of Isaiah Michael Barrett & David Angerman

An angel appears to Joseph.

Fourth Lesson Read by Awawing Itambi Matthew 1:18-25

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 16 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Gabriel's Message
The congregation sits.

St. Luke tells of the birth of the Savior.

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:1-20

Anthem Some Children See Him
Evie Mayne; Mirella Ndingwan

The Apostle Paul proclaims the saving power of the Son of God.

Sixth Lesson Read by Akwi Lillian Aseh Romans 1:1-7

Anthem Mary, Did You Know Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
Soloist: Daniel Whitaker arr. Susan Steppe

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

Seventh Lesson John 1:1-14

Sermon The Latest News Mike Krech
"And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." John 1:14a

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 309 Of the Father's Love Begotten Divinum Mysterium

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis Refrain of Hymn 23 Gloria

The congregation sits.

The Bidding Prayer and the O Antiphons

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

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella Traditional French Carol
Arr. David H. Hegarty

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 40 Joy to the World Antioch

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

You are welcome to sing along with the Hallelujah Chorus.

Please stand at the first appearance of the line, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Postlude Hallelujah Chorus G.F. Handel, 1742

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church

Today we follow a worship pattern of lessons and carols, popularized beginning Christmas Eve,
1918, at the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, England.

Thanks to all our musicians for sharing their musical gifts to the glory of God, the good of the
church, and the love of neighbor.

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the new-born King.
Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the new-born King.
Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the new-born King.
All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the new-born King.

Text: Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816,1825; Stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857

Tune: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

O Morning Star, how fair and bright Thou beamest forth in truth and light!
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son, My Lord and Savior Thou hast won
My heart to serve Thee solely!
Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all victorious, Rich in blessing,
Rule and might o'er all possessing.
Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar!
Fill me with joy and strength to be Thy member, ever joined to Thee
In love that cannot falter!
Toward Thee longing Doth possess me; turn and bless me; Here in sadness
Eye and heart long for Thy gladness!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1597; Alt. Johann Adolf Schlegel, 1768;

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863.

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET; Philipp Nicolai, 1599;

Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1740

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “O lowly maiden Mary,” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother you shall be, All generations praise continually,
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleases God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Text: Para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Tune: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE; Basque carol;

Arr. by Edgar Pettman and John Wickham

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Of the Father’s love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, And O Holy Ghost to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413);

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1854, and Henry Williams Baker, 1859;

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM; Plainsong, Mode V;

Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH; Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836