

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 at 11:00 a.m.

December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Canticle of Joy

J. S. Bach

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 56

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

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**.)

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn 34

In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born

Discovery

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 46

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Personent Hodie

The congregation sits.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Unison

**O sing to the Lord a new song, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have gained the victory.**

**The Lord has made known that victory,
revealing vindication in the sight of the nations.**

God has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to God with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

at the presence of the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Anthem Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love Epiphany Song

(see Hymn 62 for the text; text and tune by H. Kenn Carmichael, 1976)

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-9

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon The Death-Dealing and the Life-Giving Mike Krech

“When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him.” Matthew 2:3

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 36

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

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 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (One Jeune Pucelle) French Carol

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and quickly now if necessary.

Postlude

Sortie No. 2 Chant du roi René, Noël provençal,

Felix Andre Guilmant

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church on Christmas Day, 2022.

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they a-keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star, Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

This star drew nigh to the northwest; O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three, Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offer there in His presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, And with His blood our life hath
bought. (Refrain)

Text: English carol, 17th century;

Tune: 'THE FIRST NOWELL'; English carol' Sandy's *Christmas Carols*, 1833

In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born

In Bethlehem a Babe was born With love enough for all.
While kingdoms slept, the Lord came down To grace a manger stall.
And with a glorious light Angels appeared that night,
Singing, "Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world forlorn,
The Child of peace and sacrifice is waiting to be found."

Royalty and shepherds came To worship from afar,
Guided through the long cold night By one persistent star.
As each beheld the Son, Strangers became as one,
Singing, "Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world forlorn,
The Child of peace and sacrifice is waiting to be found."

The mystery of Bethlehem Was long ago, they say,
But, miracle of miracles, The Baby lives today
In each new heart that hears Love coming through the years,
Singing, "Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world forlorn,
The Child of peace and sacrifice is waiting to be found."

Text: Barbara Mays, 1986;

Tune: DISCOVERY; Barbara Mays, 1986; Harm. John Weaver, 1988

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King,
Born on earth to save us; Him the Father gave us.

Refrain:

Ideo – o – o – o, Ideo – o – o – o, Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

His the doom, ours the mirth; When He came down to earth
Bethlehem saw His birth
Ox and ass beside Him From the cold would hide Him. (Sing the refrain)

God's bright star, o'er His head, Wise men three to Him led,
Kneeling low by His bed
Lay their gifts before Him, Praise Him and adore Him. (Sing the refrain)

On this day angels sing; With their songs earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's
King, Born on earth to save us; Peace and love He gave us. (Sing the refrain.)

Text: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; Trans. Jane Marion Joseph (1894-1929)

Tune: PERSONENT HODIE; *Piae Cantiones*, 1582;

Arr. Gustav Theodore Holst, 1924

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow.
In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air.
But His mother only, In her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved With a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him, Give my heart.

Text: Christina Rossetti, 1872; alt.

Tune: CRANHAM; Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858;

Tune: DIX; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861;

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906