

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon
Sharon Ragghianti
Becky Stirling

Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh
Susie Hayes
Janet Vawter
Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Becky Stirling
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2025

Jere Lawson
John Price
Matthew Smith

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, eaclewis@yahoo.com
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.

October 15, 2023

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude What a Friend We Have in Jesus Charles C. Converse, 1868
Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, organ

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above 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**.)

O God, you have made heaven and earth and all that is good; and in Jesus Christ
You show us that the secret of joy is a heart set free from selfish desires. Help us to
Delight in simple things and to rejoice always in the richness of your bounty; through
the same 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.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

(This prayer was written by the children's Sunday School class, Sept. 17, 2023)

We know you forgive us.

So we can ask that you will forgive us:

when we don't listen, when we are not kind to others,

when we do not share with others, when we do not put you first in our lives.

Be with us, Lord, guiding us and the choices we make.

Help us to love you and others ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 426 Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak Canonbury

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 baptismal font for a

Time for Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

Unison

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty deeds of the Lord or declare all God's praise?

Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;

Help me when you deliver them,

that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,

that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,

that I may glory in your heritage.

Both we and our ancestors have sinned;

we have committed iniquity and have done evil.

They made a calf at Horeb and worshipped a cast image.

They exchanged the glory of God

for the image of an ox that eats grass.

They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,

wondrous works in the land of Ham

and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

Therefore God said he would destroy them,

had not Moses, his chosen one,

stood in the breach before him,

to turn away God's wrath from destroying them.

Anthem Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Anthony Johnson Showalter, 1887

Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, organ

Epistle

Philippians 4:1-9

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 155 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Darwall's 148th

The congregation sits.

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon

Dressed for the Banquet

Mike Krech

"Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?"

Matthew 22:12

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 345 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Rest

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria Patri 579 Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Make Me a Servant (Kelly Willard)

Together We Serve (D. Charles Damon)

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 422 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending Beach Spring

Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

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

Postlude Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Tune: Nettleton, 1813)

Arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade, God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo, all is just, and all is right:
To God all praise and glory.

The Lord is never far away, But through all grief distressing,
An ever-present help and stay, Our peace, and joy, and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud Thy praises,
That all may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body take your part.
To God all praise and glory.

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.

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

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Lord, speak to me that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thine erring children lost and lone.
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.
O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o'er flow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.
O use me, Lord, use even me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872;

Tune: CANONBURY; Robert Schumann, 1839

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, And triumph ever more:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!
God's kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!
Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints for their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1746;

Tune: DARWALL'S 148th; John Darwall, 1770

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.
In simple trust like theirs who heard, Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.
O Sabbath rest by Galilee, O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee the silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!
Drop Thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls The strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.
Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Text: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872;

Tune: REST; Frederick Charles Maker, 1887

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

God, whose giving knows no ending, From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door;
Gifted by You, we turn to You, Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful songs shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son;
All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted, Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving You by loving all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1961;

Tune: BEACH SPRING; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; Harm. James H. Wood, 1958