

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 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Be the Center Michael Frye; arr. Carol Tornquist

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art Toulon

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.**)

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will, to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and at the end obtain everlasting life; 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.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,

whose face is hidden from us by our sins,

and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:

Cleanse us from all our offenses,

and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,

that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,

confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,

and finding in you our refuge and strength;

through Jesus Christ your Son. ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing
Hymn 220 All People That on Earth Do Dwell Old Hundredth

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 – Congregational Meeting

The children bring their ringing offering and come to the baptismal font for a
Time for Young Christians

The congregation stands to sing
Hymn 223 O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer Stuttgart
The congregation sits.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6,14,16-17ab Unison

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let your work be manifest to your servants
and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands.

Anthem A Mighty Fortress Martin Luther;
arr. Arthur Frackenpohl
Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Kim Upshaw, piano

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon Central Truths Mike Krech
“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Matthew 22:36

The congregation stands to sing
Hymn 430 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy Darwall’s 148th
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 From the Inside Out Joel Houston; arr. Carol Tornquist

The congregation stands to sing the
Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 260 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Ein’ Feste Burg

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

Postlude Our God Jesse Reeves, Chris Tomlin,
Matt Redman, and Jonas Myrin; arr. Carol Tornquist

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church. Today much of the church celebrates the Protestant Reformation, dated to October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther (1483-1546) posted 95 theses, items for debate, on the door of the castle church at Wittenberg, Germany. Protestantism spread throughout Europe, emphasizing the authority of scripture, justification by grace through faith, the priesthood of all believers, the Christian vocation of laypersons, and more inclusive, representative church government. Presbyterianism is part of the Reformed Tradition within Protestant Christianity, looking to John Calvin (1509-1564) and his emphasis upon the sovereignty of God and the office of elder (*presbuteros* in Greek). Many Protestant groups settled in North America in the seventeenth century and beyond, giving the United States a majority Protestant population. The first and second hymns in today’s service are associated with John Calvin’s ministries in Strasbourg, France, and Geneva, Switzerland. The fourth hymn was written for the bicentennial of the Presbyterian Church. The final hymn is Luther’s masterpiece from 1529. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart.
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in every place;
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.

Thou art the life by which alone we live,
And all our substance and our strength receive.
Sustain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,
And give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,
No harshness hast Thou and no bitterness;
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,
That we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in Thee;
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

Text: Attr. John Calvin; French Psalter, Strassburg, 1545;

Trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868

Tune: TOULON; Adapt. from Genevan 124; Genevan Psalter, 1551

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise, Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good, His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure.

Text: Psalm 100, William Kethe, 1560

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH; Attr. Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510-c. 1561)

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

O my soul, bless your Redeemer; All within me bless God's name;
Bless the Savior, and forget not All God's mercies to proclaim.

God forgives all your transgressions, All diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction, And with you so kindly deals.

Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;
Like the pity of a father Has the Lord's compassion been.

As it was without beginning, So it lasts without an end;
To their children's children ever Shall God's righteousness extend.

Unto such as keep God's covenant And are steadfast in God's way;
Unto those who still remember The commandments and obey.

Bless your Maker, all you creatures, Ever under God's control,
All throughout God's vast dominion; Bless the Lord of all, my soul!

Text: Psalm 103; Paraphrase in *The Book of Psalms*, 1871; alt. 1972, 1988

Tune: STUTTGART; Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715;

as in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

Come, Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Come, sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns supreme,

Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend, Let wisdom be our guide,

As we in mission magnify the Crucified!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come, sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!

In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Text: Brian Dill, 1988;

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe
His craft and power are great, And armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him,
His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

Text: Martin Luther, 1529; Trans. Frederick Henry Hodge, 1852;

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG; Martin Luther, 1529