

### CHURCH SESSION

#### Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon  
Sharon Ragghianti  
Becky Stirling

#### Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh  
Susie Hayes  
Janet Vawter

#### Class of 2025

Jere Lawson  
John Price  
Matthew Smith

Moderator: John Michael Krech  
Clerk: Becky Stirling  
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

### 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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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 in Word and Sacrament at 11:00 a.m.

### December 3, 2023

### First Sunday in Advent

#### The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude**      The Trumpet Shall Sound (Messiah)      G.F. Handel, 1742  
Arr. Lani Smith

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 9**      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel      Veni Emmanuel

#### 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 have taught us that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand.  
Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith,  
that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**  
The congregation sits.

#### Lighting the First Candle in the Advent Wreath

Mary Korowin and Glenda Parker

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

**O come, Thou branch of *Jes-se's* tree, Free them from Satan's *ty-ranny*  
That trust Thy mighty *pow-er* to save, And give them victory *o'er* the grave.  
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 - Congregational Meeting

The children bring their ringing offering and come to the Chrismon tree for a  
**Time for Young Christians**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament**

Isaiah 64:1-9

**Psalms 80:1-7,17-19**

Unison

**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel; you lead Joseph like a flock.**

**You are enthroned upon the cherubim;**

**shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.**

**Stir up your might and come to save us.**

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.**

**O Lord God of hosts,**

**how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

**You have fed them with the bread of tears**

**and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

**You make us the scorn of our neighbors;**

**our enemies laugh among themselves.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine that we may be saved.**

**Let your hand be upon your chosen one,**

**the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

**Then we will never turn back from you;**

**give us life and we will call on your name.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine that we may be saved.**

**Anthem**

Prepare the Way

Joseph Martin, 2010

Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a royal way; gather the people to sing and pray. Lift up your voices with joyful praise. Let all of creation with song rejoice. Sing ev'ry nation with heart and voice, sharing the promise with joyful praise. Alleluia. Keep awake, be ready, dawn will soon be here. Light shine upon us, grace will dry each tear. Hope, peace, and love will fall from heav'n above. Joy will come with morning. Prepare, the time is near. Sing an alleluia Prepare the way of the Lord of lords. Prepare. (-- Isaiah 40:3, adapted and augmented by Joseph M. Martin; and quoting Noël Nouvelet, traditional French melody)

**Epistle**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**The congregation stands to sing**

**Hymn 8**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

**The congregation sits.**

**Gospel**

Mark 13:24-37

**Sermon**

Late in Time

Mike Krech

“Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.”

Mark 13:33

**The congregation stands to sing**

**Hymn 6**

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

**Nicene Creed**

Unison; Hymnal, page 15, Ecumenical

**Gloria in Excelsis**

Refrain of Hymn 23

Gloria

**The congregation sits.**

**Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication**

**Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory**

Immanuel with O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Anna Laura Page

**The congregation stands to sing the**

**Doxology 592**

Old Hundredth

**The congregation sits.**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Words of Institution**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**The Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors)

Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

You may come by the center aisle to receive the bread and cup from the minister and elders.

**OR** you may go to the table to the left and eat the bread and drink from a cup there.

Please give the person in front of you adequate time for a reverent Communion.

Place the empty cup in the basket provided. All Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion**

**Benediction**

**The congregation stands to sing**

**Hymn 5**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

**Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,**

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

**Postlude**

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

Arr. Stephen Burtonwood, 2019

**Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.**

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, the season of four Sundays prior to Christmas Day.

It is also the start of the new liturgical year, Year B in the three-year lectionary cycle, when Gospel readings will come primarily from Mark. (JMK)

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Text: Latin, c.12<sup>th</sup> century;

Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854;

Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916;

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL;

Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854; Accomp. John Weaver, 1988

### **Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1642; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;

Tune: TRURO;

Thomas Williams, 1789; Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

### **Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending**

Jesus comes with clouds descending; See the Lamb for sinners slain!  
Thousand, thousand saints attending Join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign!

Every eye shall then behold You Robed in awesome majesty;  
Those who jeered and mocked and sold you, Pierced and nailed You to the tree,  
Shamed and grieving, shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving,  
Shall their true Messiah see.

Yes, Amen! Let all adore You High on your eternal throne;  
Crowns and empires fall before You, Claim the kingdom for Your own:  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,  
Everlasting Christ, come down!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1758, alt;

Tune: HELMSLEY;

Thomas Olivers, 1763; Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

### **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth From the realms of endless day,  
That the power of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High.

Text: From Liturgy of St. James, 4<sup>th</sup> century; Trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864;

Tune: PICARDY; French carol; Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906