

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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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 in Word and Sacrament at 5:00 p.m.
December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Canticle of Joy J.S. Bach; arr. Van Denman Thompson

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful Adeste Fideles

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, give us such love and wonder that with shepherds, magi, and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child, the promised King, and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the Christ Candle

The Krech/Mayne Family

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

Hymn 28 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice In Dulci Jubilo

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

Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96:1-4a,11-13

Unison

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord; bless God's name;

tell of God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it. Let the field exult and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.

For the Lord is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Anthem

Promises of Isaiah

Michael Barrett and David Angerman, 2011

For unto us a Child is born, for unto us a Son is given. The government shall be upon His shoulders, And His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Savior of the nations, blessed Prince of Peace Come to us, Redeemer, reign in majesty Ancient of Days, we crown you now with praise Author of Creation, come and set us free. (--- Michael Barrett)

Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

Anthem

O, Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, 1847

Karen Schlichte, soprano

Gospel

John 1:1-14

Sermon

The Humanity of God

Mike Krech

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, ... full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Nicene Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 15, Ecumenical

Gloria in Excelsis

Refrain of Hymn 23

Gloria

The congregation sits.

An Evening Prayer

Offertory

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles

Appalachian Carol arr. Tim Doran

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 pastor and elders.

OR you may go to the tables to the left or right, eat the bread and drink from a cup there.

In either case:

Please observe physical distancing of six feet as you come to the tables.

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.

Hymns during Communion

25

Away in a Manger

Mueller

27

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Tempus Adest Floridum

45

A La Ru

The Light of Christ Spreads Among the Faithful

After the Passing of the Light

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night! All is calm all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly host sing alleluia. Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing Alleluias to our King: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion and Benediction

Worshippers carefully depart the partially darkened sanctuary or remain for prayer.

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye. O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels. O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Text: John Francis Wade, c. 1740; Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841;

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES; John Francis Wade, c. 1740;

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;

Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice;

Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.

He hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin; Trans. and Para. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt.;

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO; German folk tune, 14th century;

Harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN; Felix Mendelssohn, 1840;

Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885; Stanza 3, Gabriel's *Vineyard Songs*, 1892;

Tune: MUELLER; Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; Harm. John Weaver, 1986

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, But no more a stranger,
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1919;

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM; *Piae Cantiones*, 1582;

Arr. Ernest C. MacMillan, 1930

A La Ru O Sleep, Dear Holy Baby

O sleep, dear holy Baby, with Your head against my breast;
Meanwhile the pangs of my sorrow are soothed and put to rest.
A la ru, a la me, a la ru, a la me. A la ru, a la me, a la ru, a la ru, a la me.

You need not fear King Herod. He will bring no harm to You;
So rest in the arms of Your mother, who sings You a la ru.
A la ru, a la me, a la ru, a la me. A la ru, a la me, a la ru, a la ru, a la me.

Text: Hispanic folk song; Trans. John Donald Robb, 1954

Tune: Hispanic folk melody; Arr. John Donald Robb, 1954

The text of Silent Night may be found in the bulletin.