

## CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh  
Susie Hayes

### Class of 2025

Jere Lawson  
John Price  
Matthew Smith

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

### Class of 2026

Sandy Kehrli  
AZ Ndingwan  
Becky Stirling

## 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

### Grace Presbyterian Church

6671 Yale Road

Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-3241

[www.grace-pres.org](http://www.grace-pres.org)

[www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett](https://www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett)

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 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m.

**February 14, 2024**

**Ash Wednesday**

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude** I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (Tune: Sojourner) Wayne L. Wold

**Prayer for the Day** (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)  
Gracious God, out of your love you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness and strengthen us to face our mortality that we may reach with confidence for your mercy in 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 stands to sing

**Hymn 81** Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days St. Flavian

**Apostles' Creed** Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

The congregation sits.

## Welcome and Announcements

### Old Testament

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

### Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

### Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Sermon

Serious Business

Mike Krech

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”  
2 Cor. 5:21

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 82** O Lamb of God, Most Holy O Lammes Gott

The congregation sits.

## Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

**Psalms 51:1-15,17** Unison

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you alone have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

**So you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.**  
**For behold, you look for truth deep within me,**  
    **And will make me understand wisdom secretly.**  
**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me and I shall be clean indeed.**  
**Make me hear of joy and gladness that the body you have broken may rejoice.**  
**Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.**  
**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**  
**Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.**  
    **Give me the joy of your saving help again**  
    **and sustain me with your bountiful spirit.**  
**Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.**  
**Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**  
    **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;**  
    **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Hymn 87**                      The Glory of These Forty Days                      Erhalt Uns, Herr

**Litany of Penitence**     (The congregation says the portions **in bold**.)

**Holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another,**  
    **that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed,**  
    **by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**  
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved  
our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.  
    **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to  
the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.  
    **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and  
impatience in our lives.  
    **We confess to you, O God.**  
Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,  
    **We confess to you, O God.**  
Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
    **We confess to you, O God.**  
Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life  
and work,  
    **We confess to you, O God.**  
Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
    **We confess to you, O God.**

Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human  
need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
    **Accept our repentance, O God.**  
For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our  
prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
    **Accept our repentance, O God.**  
For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who  
come after us,  
    **Accept our repentance, O God.**  
Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.  
    **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

**Prayer over the Ashes**

**Imposition of the Ashes**

Worshippers come forward at the direction of the pastor to receive the imposition of ashes.

**Anthem**     Touch Me with Ashes     Joseph M. Martin & Stacy Nordmeyer  
                    Sung by Susan Steppe (12:00); choir, soloist Karen Schlichte (6:30)

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Words of Institution of The Lord's Supper**

**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 elder.

**OR** you may go to the table to the left, 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.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion**                      Unison

**God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ**  
    **you reconciled your people to yourself.**

**Following our Savior's example of prayer and fasting,**  
    **may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love;**  
    **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Benediction**

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 388**                      O Jesus, I Have Promised                      Angel's Story

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

Lord, who throughout these forty days For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend, And didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through Thy Passiontide,  
Yea, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that so, this life Of suffering overpast,  
An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!

Text: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN; Day's *Psalter*, 1562

### **O Lamb of God Most Holy!**

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer,  
And patient still and lowly, Yourself to scorn did offer;  
Our sins by You were taken, Or hope had us forsaken:  
Have mercy on us, Jesus!

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer,  
And patient still and lowly, Yourself to scorn did offer;  
Our sins by You were taken, Or hope had us forsaken:  
Have mercy on us, Jesus!

O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer,  
And patient still and lowly, Yourself to scorn did offer;  
Our sins by You were taken, Or hope had us forsaken:  
Your peace be with us, Jesus!

Text: Nikolaus Decius, c.1541; trans. Arthur Tozer Russell (1806-1874)

Tune: O LAMM GOTTES; Nikolaus Decius, c. 1541

### **The Glory of These Forty Days**

The glory of these forty days We celebrate with songs of praise;  
For Christ, by whom all things were made, Himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw The loving God who gave the law;  
And to Elijah, fasting, came The steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, Delivered from the lion's might;  
And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became The herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant that we like them be true, Consumed in fast and prayer with You;  
Our spirits strengthen with Your grace, And give us joy to see Your face.

Text: Gregory the Great (540-604); trans. Maurice F. Bell, 1906;

Tune: Erhalt Uns, Herr; King's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. J.S. Bach, 1725

### **O Jesus, I Have Promised**

O Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me, My Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will.

O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory There shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, My Master and my friend.

Text: John Ernest Bode, 1868;

Tune: ANGEL'S STORY; Arthur Henry Mann, 1881