

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

| | |
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| 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, blewis@grace-pres.org |
| Sexton | Scott Hunter |
| Director of Grace Pres. Child Care | Jill Bailey, childcare@grace-pres.org |

Grace Presbyterian Church

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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.

February 17, 2024

Service in Witness to the Resurrection for

John Purdue Gordon (May 29, 1945 - February 11, 2024)

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude in G

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 562

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Melita

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, who gave us birth, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray. Show us now your grace, that as we face the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die, and, when our days here are ended, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Holy God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts.

We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care.

We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns.

We have not always sought or done your will.

We have not lived as your grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us.

Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us.

Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us, and make us whole.

Set us free from our sin and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and forever ...

**Silent Prayers of Confession
Assurance of Pardon**

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 543 Abide with Me Eventide

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 welcome and announcements)

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 23 Unison

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Gospel John 14:1-7,25-27

Interlude Medley of Four of John's Favorite Gospel Hymns and Songs

I'll Fly Away; The Old Rugged Cross;

How Great Thou Art; Wonderful Grace of Jesus

Lesson from Acts Acts 27:1-7,41-28:2a

Sermon Unusual Kindness Mike Krech

“After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta.

The natives showed us unusual kindness.” Acts 28:1-2a

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 404 Precious Lord, Take My Hand Precious Lord

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria Patri 579 Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

A Season of Prayer

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

The Tolling of Bells

Benediction

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 526 For All the Saints Sine Nomine

(We sing the stanzas numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4)

The congregation sits for the postlude.

Postlude A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Martin Luther, 1529

Arr. Anna Laura Page

Following the postlude, Rosemary and other members of the Gordon family will remain at the front of the church, where they welcome your visit.

Pastor: John Michael Krech

Organist: Susan Steppe

Hand Bells: Rickie Cooke, Matthew Smith, Bob Vawter

Tech and Livestream: Kevin J. Bopp

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word The wind and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep, And calm amid its rage did sleep:

O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood Upon the chaos wild and rude,
And bade its angry tumult cease, And gave, for fierce confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power, All travelers guard in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1860; alt.

Tune: MELITA; John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry Frances Lyte, 1847;

Tune: EVENTIDE, William Henry Monk, 1861

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light; Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near;
When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall; Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A Dorsey, 1938

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD; George N. Allen, 1844; arr. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

For All the Saints

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William Walsham How, 1864;

Tune: SINE NOMINE; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906