

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

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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 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Largo in G

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Introit

Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1861

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness; make Thy way plain before my face,
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety. (Psalm 5:8;4:8)

Prayer to the Lamb of God

After each section of the prayer, the pastor says, "Hear us as we pray,"
The congregation joins the pastor, saying:

Lord, have mercy.

Hymn 92

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

St. Christopher

Prayer of Confession

Unison

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.

**We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,
and great when we are small.**

We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Savior ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie 574 sung by all

David N. Johnson, 1972

Concluding Prayer by the Pastor

Assurance of Pardon – Epistle

Romans 4:13-25

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 488

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

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.)

God of mercy, as your chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown, so may your church be granted such faith that we may follow you with courage for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 baptismal font for a

Time for Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Genesis 17:1-7,15-16
Psalms 22:23-31 Unison

Those who fear the Lord, praise him.

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him.

Stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel.

For God did not despise the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

I will pay my vows before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord.

All the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

To God shall all who sleep in the earth bow down.
Before God shall bow down all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the Lord
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Anthem Lamb of God John Carter, 1989
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy upon us. Grant us peace.

Gospel Mark 8:31-35

Sermon "Taking Up My Cross" Mike Krech
"If any want to be come my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34b

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 101 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Hamburg

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 O Rest in the Lord (From *Elijah*) Felix Mendelssohn, 1846

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 357 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee Maryton

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the second Sunday in the season of Lent, which began with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024. Our order of service is intended to reflect the penitential nature of this season, as we in heart and mind join Jesus in his 40 days in the wilderness and hear his instruction about following him. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a might rock Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon-tide heat, And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me.
And from my stricken heart with tears Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love And my unworthiness.

Text: Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane, 1868;

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER; Frederick Charles Maker, 1881

The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, Forever blessed.

Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old, And You speak still.
Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.

You have eternal life Implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll.
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same.

Text: Daniel ben Judah, 1404; Trans. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1885,
alt.;

Tune: LEONI; Hebrew melody, Adapt. Thomas Olivers and Meyer Lyon, 1770

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the cross of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707;

Tune: HAMBURG; Lowell Mason, 1824

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give, With Thee, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1879;

Tune: MARYTON; Henry Percy Smith, 1874