

## 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
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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 at 11:00 a.m.

**May 12, 2024**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter/The Ascension of Christ into Heaven**

## **The Bell Calls Us to Worship**

**Prelude** Agincourt Hymn (Deo Gracias) English, c. 1415; John Dunstable  
with At the Name of Jesus (King's Weston) Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925  
(Ascension Hymn texts to these tunes can be found at Hymns 141 and 148)

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 142** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Coronation

## **Easter Greeting**

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People:** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**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**.)  
Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven to rightly  
rule over all things as Lord. Keep your church in the unity of the Spirit and in the  
bond of peace, and bring all creation to worship at Christ's feet, who lives and reigns  
with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**An Affirmation of Faith for Easter** Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

**Pastor:** What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**Unison:** **That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death,**

**not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,**

**who at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins**

**and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;**

**that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven**

**not a hair can fall from my head.**

**Indeed, everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.**

**Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life**

**and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

**Pastor:** The peace of the risen, ascended 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**

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 153** He Is King of Kings He Is King

The congregation sits.

## Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson** Acts 1:1-14

**Psalm 47** Unison

**Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.**

**For the Lord, the Most High, fills us with awe,  
who is a great king over all the earth.**

**God subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.**

**God chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves.**

**God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

**For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.**

**God is king over the nations. God sits on his holy throne.**

**The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.**

**For the shields of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.**

**Anthem** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Ratisbon

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Thou the true, the only Light, Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night. Day-spring from on high be near; Day-star in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee; joyless is the day's return till Thy mercy's beams I see, till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit, then, this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiancy Divine, scatter all my unbelief. More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day. Amen.

(--Charles Wesley, 1740; Tune from Leipzig, 1815, setting by Healey Willan, 1950)

**Epistle** Ephesians 1:15-23

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 155** Rejoice, the Lord Is King Darwall's 148th

The congregation sits.

**Gospel** Luke 24:44-53

**Sermon** Earthbound, Heaven-Bound Mike Krech

“While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.” Luke 24:51-53

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 145** Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart Marion

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

**Gloria for Easter Season** Refrain of Hymn 122 Judas Maccabeus

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.**

**Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.**

The congregation sits.

## Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

## Offertory Sentence

**Offertory** In Paradisum, from Requiem Mass Gabriel Fauré, 1887  
arr. for organ by Marcel Dupré

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology for Easter Season** (to the tune of Hymn 455) Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## Benediction

**Hymn 423** Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun Duke Street

**The congregation is encouraged to be seated for the postlude,  
or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and quickly now if necessary.**

**Postlude** Lift High the Cross (Crucifer) Sidney Hugo Nicholson, 1916  
arr. Donald Busarow

Today is the seventh Sunday of the season of Easter. The Great Fifty Days extend from Easter Day through Pentecost (March 31 – May 19, 2024). We celebrate this joyful season of the resurrection victory through the Gloria and Doxology for the season, and an affirmation of faith in place of a prayer of confession. Today we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord into heaven in Scripture and hymns. The Ascension occurred forty days from the resurrection according to Acts 1 and is a bridge linking the final verses of Luke's Gospel and the opening verses of the Book of Acts, also written by Luke. Next Sunday is Pentecost when the promised power from on high, the Holy Spirit, descended upon the disciples. (JMK)

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name, Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!  
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!  
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng, We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!  
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all!

Text: Stanzas 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; stanzas 2-3, alt. John Rippon, 1787;  
stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787;

Tune: CORONATION; Oliver Holden, 1793

### He Is King of Kings

Refrain: He is King of kings, He is Lord of lords,  
Jesus Christ, the first and last, No one works like him.

He built a throne up in the air, No one works like him.  
And called His saints from everywhere, No one works like Him. (Refrain)

He pitched His tents on Canaan ground, No one works like Him,  
And broke oppressive kingdoms down, No one works like Him (Refrain)

I know that my Redeemer lives, No one works like Him,  
And by His love sweet blessing gives, No one works like Him. (Refrain)

Text: African-American spiritual;

Tune: HE IS KING; African-American spiritual,

Arr. Joseph T. Jones (1902-1983); Adapt. Melva W. Costen, 1989

### **Rejoice, the Lord Is King**

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, And triumph ever more:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!  
God's kingdom cannot fail, Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell Are to our Jesus given:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge shall come  
To glorify the saints for their eternal home:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1746;  
Tune: DARWALL'S 148th; John Darwall, 1770

### **Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart**

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Yes, on through life's long path, Still chanting as ye go;  
From youth to age, by night and day, In gladness and in woe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
At last the march shall end; The wearied ones find rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Text: Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1865;  
Tune: MARION; Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883

### **Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
To Him shall endless prayer be made, And praises throng to crown His head;  
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise With every morning sacrifice.  
People and realms of every tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.  
Blessings abound where'er He reigns; The prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blessed.  
Let every creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud Amen!  
Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.;  
Tune: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, d. 1793