

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2020

Rosemary Gordon
Brooks Keiser
Elizabeth Velazquez

Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke
Anna Tate
Janet Vawter

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp
Bob Gammon
Emily Mayne

Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Elizabeth Velazquez
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Director of Music	Charlotte Eaheart Hicks, CCM, charlotteschurch@gmail.com
Organist	Susan Steppe, susansteppe@comcast.net
Director of Technical Services	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

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Please consider Grace Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.



Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

November 29, 2020

The First Sunday in Advent

In the sanctuary and live streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Tune: St. George's, Windsor by George Job Elvey, 1859; arr. Brant Adams

Bob Vawter, trombone; Susan Steppe, piano

As we make the transition from the national Thanksgiving holiday just past, to Advent, the season of hopeful expectancy, worshipers may call to mind the final stanza of this hymn, which is at 551 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*:

“Even so, Lord, quickly come, To thy final harvest home;

Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin.

There forever purified, In Thy presence to abide:

Come, with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.” JMK

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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**.)

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent, and the day is at hand.

Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Grace Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA),
Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters.

Lighting the First Candle in the Advent Wreath Hugh and Paula Bishop

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

**O come, Thou branch of *Jes-se's* tree, Free them from Satan's *ty-ranny*
That trust Thy mighty *pow-er* to save, And give them victory *o'er* the grave.
Rejoice; rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination Suzanne Getman

Old Testament Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 Unison

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel; you lead Joseph like a flock.

You are enthroned upon the cherubim;

shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.

Stir up your might and come to save us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine that we may be saved.

Let your hand be upon your chosen one,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine that we may be saved.

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates Truro

The congregation sits.

Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Sermon Future Forecast Mike Krech

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.” Mark 13:32-33

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 6 Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending Helmsley

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis Refrain of Hymn 23 Gloria

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Advent Medley – Comfort, Comfort You My People/
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 38 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Carol

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude The Trumpet Shall Sound (*Messiah*) G.F. Handel; arr. L. Smith

Following the postlude, Pastor Mike Krech will be at the front of the church near the chancel steps and welcomes conversation with any, while masked and physically distanced.

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, the season of four Sundays prior to Christmas Day.

It is also the start of the new liturgical year, Year B in the three-year lectionary cycle, when Gospel readings will come primarily from Mark.

Today's Old Testament asks God to come down and right the wrongs on earth, while acknowledging Israel's own sinfulness. The Epistle encourages believers to nourish their spiritual gifts as they await Christ's second Advent. The Gospel records Jesus' counsel to remain awake and alert because we know not when the Son of Man will return in glory. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Text: Latin, c.12th century; Stanzas 1-2 trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1854;
Stanza 3 trans. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916;
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL; Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854; Accomp. John Weaver,
1988

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, Behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1642; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;
Tune: TRURO; Thomas Williams, 1789; Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Jesus comes with clouds descending; See the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending Join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ the Lord returns to reign!

Every eye shall then behold You Robed in awesome majesty;
Those who jeered and mocked and sold you, Pierced and nailed You to the tree,
Shamed and grieving, shamed and grieving, Shamed and grieving,
Shall their true Messiah see.

Yes, Amen! Let all adore You High on your eternal throne;
Crowns and empires fall before You, Claim the kingdom for Your own:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus,
Everlasting Christ, come down!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1758, alt;

Tune: HELMSLEY; Thomas Olivers, 1763; Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all-gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing:
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849;

Tune: CAROL; Richard Storrs Willis, 1850