

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke

Janet Vawter

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp
Bob Gammon
Emily Mayne
Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Becky Stirling
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon
Sharon Ragghianti
Becky Stirling

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
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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 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.

October 24, 2021

Pledge Sunday

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude in G Minor J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 483 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above Mit Freuden Zart

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**)

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will, to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error and lead us into all truth; that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and at the end obtain everlasting life; through 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 sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father: we have sinned against you,
through our own fault, in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.**

**For the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all our offenses,
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name ...**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 253

I'll Praise My Maker

Old 113th

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, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalm 34:1-8, 19

Unison

I will bless the Lord at all times;

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together.

I sought the Lord and he answered me

and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried and was heard by the Lord

and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him

and delivers them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good;

happy are those who take refuge in God.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

but the Lord rescues them from them all.

Musical Meditation

Canon in D Johann Pachelbel, c. 1685

Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn

Epistle

Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel

Mark 10:46-52

Sermon

Contemplating Mysteries Together

Mike Krech

“Then Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man said to him, ‘My Teacher, let me see again.’”

Mark 10:51

An Opportunity to Present Commitments for A.D. 2022

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 394

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Balm in Gilead

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

Brother James's Air (Marosa)

James Macbeth Bain

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 442

The Church's One Foundation

Aurelia

Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

or you may depart the sanctuary quickly and quietly now if you need to.

Postlude

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst, 1921

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church. We are in stewardship season here in October, as we also follow the lections for the closing weeks of Year B in the three year cycle of the lectionary, with Old Testament readings from Job, the Epistle from Hebrews, and the Gospel from Mark. The liturgical color is green, emblematic of the growth in grace that these lessons and this season encourage in us.

JMK

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled, And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade, God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might, Lo, all is just, and all is right:
To God all praise and glory.

The Lord is never far away, But through all grief distressing,
An ever-present help and stay, Our peace, and joy, and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud Thy praises,
That all may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body take your part.
To God all praise and glory.

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864; alt.
Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART; Bohemian Brethren *Kirchengesang*, 1566

I'll Praise My Maker

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past While life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.

How happy they whose hopes rely On Israel's God, who made the sky
And earth and seas with all their train;
Whose truth forever stands secure, Who saves the oppressed and feeds the poor,
And none shall find God's promise vain.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind; The Lord supports the fainting mind
And sends the laboring conscience peace.
God helps the stranger in distress, The widowed and the parentless,
And grants the prisoner sweet release.

Then repeat stanza one.

Text: Isaac Watts from Psalm 146; Adapt. Charles Wesley, 1736; alt. 1988
Tune: OLD113TH; Attr. Matthäus Greiter (c.1500-1552);
Harm. V. Earle Copes, 1964

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit Revives my soul again. (Repeat refrain)

Don't ever feel discouraged, For Jesus in your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge He'll not refuse to lend. (Repeat refrain)

If you cannot preach like Peter, If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus And say, "He died for all." (Repeat refrain)

Text: African-American spiritual;

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD; African-American spiritual;

arr. Melva W. Costen, 1989; alt.

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

She is His new creation, By water and the word.

From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,

Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;

One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,

And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder This world sees her oppressed,

By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"

And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,

She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;

Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,

And the great church victorious, Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God the Three in One,

And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we

Like them, the meek and lowly, May live eternally.

Text: Samuel John Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864