

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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Bob Vawter, bvawter@bellsouth.net

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Nursery Attendants

Kathe Walker & Judy Thigpun

Financial Administrator/Admin Asst.

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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.

December 5, 2021

The Second Sunday in Advent

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Advent Medley compiled by Susan Steppe

(*Messiah* overture; Prepare the Way;

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates, arr. Hal Hopson)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 13

Prepare the Way, O Zion Bereden Vag For Herran

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.)

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the Second Candle in the Advent Wreath

John and Judy Price

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

O come, Desire of na- tions, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;

Bid envy, strife and dis- cord cease, Fill the whole world with heav- en's peace.

Rejoice; rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Is- rael.

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 collection and come to the Chrismon Tree for a
Time for Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 126 Unison

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Anthem The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns/
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; arr. Stephen DeCesare
Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

Epistle Philippians 1:3-11
Gospel Luke 3:1-6

The congregation stands to sing
Hymn 20 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night St. George's Windsor
The congregation sits.

Sermon The Good Work Begun Mike Krech
“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in among you will bring it to
completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 4 Creator of the Stars of Night Conditore Alme Siderum
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 To a Maid Engaged to Joseph arr. Susan Steppe
(see Hymn 19 for the text and tune Annunciation)

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 now if you need to.

Postlude Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth
based on the tune Mit Freuden Zart; arr. David Paxton; see Hymn 7

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we continue the season of **Advent**, the four Sundays leading up to Christmas
Some signs of the season in the sanctuary and in worship include the **purple** paraments,
purple being the color of preparation and royalty, the **Advent wreath**, with four candles
marking the four Sundays of the season, the **Chrismon tree**, decorated with
Christ Monograms, symbols of Christ's birth and rule, the singing of a stanza of
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel following the advent wreath candle lighting service
and singing the **Gloria in Excelsis** from the refrain of the familiar Hymn 23,
Angels We Have Heard on High. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Prepare the Way

Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.
Christ brings God's rule, O Zion, He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847); Adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980| alt. 1989;
Tune BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN;
Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697; Arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.
Watchman, tell us of the night, Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; See, it bursts o'er all the earth.
Watchman, tell us of the night, For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight, Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let your wanderings cease; Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God is come!

Text: John Bowring, 1825; alt, 1972
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR; George Job Elvey, 1859

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, We pray You hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At Your great name, O Jesus, now All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord, Like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be From age to age eternally. Amen.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th century;

Trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, as in *The Hymnal 1940*; alt.

Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM;

Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th century; Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1943

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