

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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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.

December 12, 2021

The Third Sunday in Advent

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Hyfrydol) arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Hyfrydol

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**.)
Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you; now prepare the world
for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your
children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; 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.

Lighting the Third Candle in the Advent Wreath

Martina and Oki Tafah

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

O come, Thou Key of *Da*-vid, come, And open wide our *heav'n*-ly home;

Make safe the way that *leads* on high, And close the path to *mis*-ery.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm 146:5-10

Unison

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
But the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever;
your God, O Zion, in all generations. Praise the Lord.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 10 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

The congregation sits.

Sermon

Rejoicing in Blessings Shared

Mike Krech

“So with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.” Luke 3:18

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 12

People Look East

Besancon

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 Savior of the Nations, Come (Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland)

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Psalm 42

Worshipers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude,
or you may depart the sanctuary quietly now if you need to.

Postlude Masters in This Hall (French Carol, words, William Morris, 1860)
arr. Lani Smith

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 reign; singing a stanza of **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**, following the advent wreath candle lighting service; and the **Gloria in Excelsis** from the refrain of the familiar Hymn 23, Angels We Have Heard on High.

Today we light the **rose colored candle**. This tradition is associated with the third Sunday in Advent, also called **Gaudete Sunday**, from the Latin (Gaudete = Rejoice) translation of today's epistle reading. These verses from Philippians 4 were historically sung as the introit on the third Sunday in Advent, and represented a note of joy in the midst of the otherwise solemn Advent season disciplines. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the world Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule within our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744;

Tune: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
Then cleansed be every life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail You as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let Your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1736; Trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW; *Musickalishes Handbuch*, 1690;

Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.

People, Look East

People, look east, The time is near Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad, Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, thought you long have ceased to build, Guard the next that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928; As in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964;
Tune: BESANCON; French folk melody; Harm. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting And the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.
Tune: PSALM 42; Genevan Psalter, 1551