

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

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Nursery Attendants

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Financial Administrator/Admin Asst.

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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.

January 2, 2022

The Second Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany Observed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Star in the East

William Walker

Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Susan Steppe

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 56

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

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.**)

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn 34

In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born

Discovery

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

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7,10a,11-12

Unison

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son.

May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people
and the hills in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor among the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures,
as long as the moon through all generations.

May he be like the rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound until the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute.

May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service,
for he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

Anthem I Will Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving
Sung by Martina Tafah

Epistle Ephesians 3:1-12

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 69 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Wie Schon Leuchtet

The congregation sits.

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Anthem Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love
Sung by Emily and Evie Mayne
(see Hymn 62)

Sermon The Wise Still Seek Him Mike Krech
“... after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,
asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?’” Matthew 2:1b-2a

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 68 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright Puer Nobis Nascitur

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 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
Jonathan Schop, 1641; arr. J.S. Bach

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 63 As With Gladness Men of Old Dix

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

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

Postlude The Lord is My Light with Lead On, O King Eternal
arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we continue the season of Christmas and observe the Epiphany.

In the Western Church (Roman Catholic and Protestant) Epiphany focuses upon the arrival of the Magi or Wise Men, recorded in Matthew 2. This welcoming of the Gentiles is foreshadowed in the Old Testament readings from Isaiah 60 and Psalm 72, and proclaimed in the epistle lesson from Ephesians 3. JMK

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they a-keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.

(Refrain)

And by the light of that same star, Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went.

(Refrain)

This star drew nigh to the northwest; O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three, Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offer there in His presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)

Text: English carol, 17th century;

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL; English carol; Sandy's *Christmas Carols*, 1833

In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born

In Bethlehem a Babe was born With love enough for all.

While kingdoms slept, the Lord came down To grace a manger stall.

And with a glorious light Angels appeared that night,

Singing, "Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world forlorn,

The Child of peace and sacrifice is waiting to be found."

Royalty and shepherds came To worship from afar,

Guided through the long cold night By one persistent star.

As each beheld the Son, Strangers became as one,

Singing, "Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world forlorn,

The Child of peace and sacrifice is waiting to be found."

The mystery of Bethlehem Was long ago, they say,

But, miracle of miracles, The Baby lives today

In each new heart that hears Love coming through the years,

Singing, "Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world forlorn,

The Child of peace and sacrifice is waiting to be found."

Text: Barbara Mays, 1986;

Tune: DISCOVERY; Barbara Mays, 1986; Harm. John Weaver, 1988

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

O Morning Star, how fair and bright Thou beamest forth in truth and light!

O Sovereign meek and lowly!

Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son, My Lord and Savior Thou hast won

My heart to serve Thee solely!

Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all victorious, Rich in blessing,

Rule and might o'er all possessing.

Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar!

Fill me with joy and strength to be Thy member, ever joined to Thee

In love that cannot falter!

Toward Thee longing Doth possess me; turn and bless me; Here in sadness

Eye and heart long for Thy gladness!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1597; Alt. Johann Adolf Schlegel, 1768;

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863.

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET; Philipp Nicolai, 1599;

Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1740

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

What star is this with beams so bright, More lovely than the noonday light?

'Tis sent to announce a newborn King, Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";

And lo! the Eastern sages stand To read in heaven the Lord's command.

O Jesus, while the star of grace Impels us on to seek Your face,

Let not our slothful hearts refuse The guidance of Your light to use.

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one,

May every tongue and nation raise An endless song of thankful praise.

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

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR; Trier ms., 15th century;

Adapt Michael Praetorius, 1609; Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858;

Tune: DIX; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861;

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906