

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp

Emily Mayne

Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon

Sharon Ragghianti

Becky Stirling

Moderator: John Michael Krech

Clerk: Becky Stirling

Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh

Susie Hayes

Janet Vawter

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Organist/Choirmaster	Susan Steppe, susansteppe@comcast.net
Director Tech. Services/Instrumental Music	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

Grace Presbyterian Church

6671 Yale Road

Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-3241

www.grace-pres.org

www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett

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.

November 27, 2022

The First Sunday in Advent

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

The Trumpet Shall Sound (Messiah)

G.F. Handel, 1742

Arr. Lani Smith

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**.)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the First Candle in the Advent Wreath Gerald and Jari Dykstra

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. *Emman-uel* 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

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates Truro

The congregation sits.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Unison

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls and security within your towers."

For the sake of my relatives and friends,

I will say, "Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Anthem

Prepare the Way

Joseph Martin, 2010

Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a royal way; gather the people to sing and pray. Lift up your voices with joyful praise. Let all of creation with song rejoice. Sing ev'ry nation with heart and voice, sharing the promise with joyful praise. Alleluia. Keep awake, be ready, dawn will soon be here. Light shine upon us, grace will dry each tear. Hope, peace, and love will fall from heav'n above. Joy will come with morning. Prepare, the time is near. Sing an alleluia Prepare the way of the Lord of lords. Prepare. (-- Isaiah 40:3, adapted and augmented by Joseph M. Martin; and quoting Noël Nouvelet, traditional French melody)

Epistle

Romans 13:11-14

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 17 "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us Wacht Auf

The congregation sits.

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon

Before the Flood

Mike Krech

"For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man." Matthew 24:38-39

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 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence French Carol

Liturgy of St. James, 4th century

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 38

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

Worshipers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,
or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and quickly now if necessary.

Postlude

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Helmsley

Arr. Stephen Burtonwood, 2019

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we begin the season of **Advent**, the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Signs of the season 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. May you have a blessed Advent and, in the fullness of time, a merry Christmas.

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)

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us; The shout of rampart guards surrounds us:

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight’s peace their cry has broken, Their urgent summons clearly spoken:

“The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up and give us light; The Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there, That you the wedding feast may share.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing, Her heart with joyful hope is springing;

She wakes and hurries through the night.

Forth He comes, her Bridegroom glorious In strength of grace, in truth victorious:

Her star is risen, her light grows bright.

Now come, most worthy Lord, God’s Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia!

We follow all and heed Your call To come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore You; Let saints and angels sing before You,

As harps and cymbals swell the sound.

Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals: Through them we stream to join the immortals

As we with joy Your throne surround.

No eye has known the sight, No ear heard such delight: Alleluia!

Therefore we sing to greet our King; Forever let our praises ring.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Tune: WACHET AUF; attr. Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. J.S. Bach, 1731

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