

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon
Sharon Ragghianti
Becky Stirling

Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh
Susie Hayes
Janet Wawter
Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Becky Stirling
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2025

Jere Lawson
John Price
Matthew Smith

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

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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 8, 2023

The First Sunday after Epiphany/The Baptism of the Lord

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Be Strong in the Lord Tom Fettke; arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 446 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken Austrian Hymn

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.**)

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Confession of Sin

Unison

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.**

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and are reluctant to welcome one another.**

In your loving kindness, have mercy on us and free us from sin.

Remind us of the promises you make in baptism,

so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 70 Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized Caithness

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 baptismal font for a

Time for Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29:1-3a,4,5b,7-8a,9-10 Unison

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.

The voice of the Lord causes the oak trees to whirl, and strips the forest bare.
and in the temple all cry "Glory."

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

Anthem Hold Somebody Panam Percy Paul
Soloist: Awaing Itambi

Lesson from Acts Acts 10:34-43

Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon No Partiality Mike Krech

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."
Acts 10:34b-35

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 492 Baptized in Water Bunessan

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria Patri 579 Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders, Class of 2025

Jere Lawson, John Price, Matthew Smith

Scripture Sentences

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Questions to the Elders Elect

The congregation stands to respond to the

Questions to the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept Jere, John, and Matthew as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Hymn 524 Holy Spirit, Lord of Love Salzburg

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Charge and Welcome

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Baptized in Water (Bunessan)/Down to the River to Pray
Gaelic tune/Traditional

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 495 We Know That Christ Is Raised Engelberg

Worshippers 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 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Nettleton)
John Wyeth, 1813; arr. Jason Payne

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church. Today we continue the Epiphany theme of the ongoing revealing of Jesus Christ to the world through his baptism in which God declared Jesus to be the Beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove. We believe the Spirit falls upon us in our baptism and in the laying on of hands as we ordain elders. JMK

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, Never fails from age to age.
Round each habitation hovering, See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them when they pray.

Text: John Newton, 1779; alt. Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN; Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came,
As peaceful as a dove and yet As urgent as a flame.
God called You "My beloved Son," The suffering servant true,
Sent You the kingdom to proclaim, God's holy will to do.
Straightway and steadfast until death You then obeyed God's call
Freely as Son of Man to serve And give Your life for all.
Baptize us with Your Spirit, Lord, Your cross on us be signed,
That, likewise in God's service, we May perfect freedom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1979; alt. 1982;

Tune: CAITHNESS; Scottish Psalter, 1635; Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, Trusting the promise, Faithfully now God's praises we sing.
Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with His rising, Freed and forgiven, Thankfully now God's praises we sing.
Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, We are God's children, Joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Text: Michael A. Seward, 1981;

Tune: BUNESSAN; Gaelic melody; Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Holy Spirit, Lord of Love

Holy Spirit, Lord of love, Who descended from above,
Gifts of blessing to bestow On Your waiting church below,
Once again in love draw near To Your servants gathered here;
From their bright baptismal day You have led them on their way.

When the sacred vow is made, When the hands on them are laid,
Come in this most solemn hour With Your strengthening gift of power.
Give them light Your truth to see; Give them life Your own to be,
Daily power to conquer sin, Patient faith the crown to win.

Text: William Dalrymple MacLagen, c. 1873; alt.

Tune: SALZBURG; Jacob Hintze, 1678; Harm. J.S. Bach (1685-1750);

As in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

We Know That Christ Is Raised

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death He broke its fearful hold;
And our despair He turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in His saving death.
Reborn we share with Him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia! Amen.

Text: John Brownlow Geyer, 1969;

Tune: ENGELBERG; Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904