

## 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

### Grace Presbyterian Church

6671 Yale Road

Bartlett, TN 38134

Phone: 901-386-3241

[www.grace-pres.org](http://www.grace-pres.org)

[www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett](https://www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett)

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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.

**February 19, 2023**

**The Last Sunday after Epiphany – The Transfiguration of the Lord**

## **The Bell Calls Us to Worship**

### **Prelude**

Spiritual Medley

(Go Down, Moses/Sojourner/He Is King/We Shall Overcome)

The congregation stands to sing

### **Hymn 229**

From All That Dwell Below the Skies Lasst Uns Erfreuen

## **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, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: Give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace, we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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.

## **Confession of Sin**

Unison

**God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory.**

**But we turn away, distracted by our own plans.**

**We confess that we speak when we should listen,**

**and act in haste rather than wait for your Word.**

**Forgive our aimless enthusiasms and our unwillingness to follow Jesus**

**to the mountaintop of prayer or the valley of service.**

**Grant us wisdom to live in your light, radiant from the face of our Lord. ...**

## **Silent Prayers of Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The congregation stands to sing

### **Hymn 69**

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Wie Schon Leuchtet

**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

Exodus 24:12-18

### Psalm 99

Unison

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble.

He sits enthroned among the cherubim; let the earth quake.

The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he.

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity.

You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he.

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel among those who called on his name.

They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees and the statutes that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them;

you were a forgiving God to them,

but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Extol the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain,

for the Lord our God is holy.

### Anthem

Rivers of Babylon

Brent Dowe, J.A. McNaughton,

G. Reyam, F. Faran

Sung by Awaiwing Itambi and Akwi Aseh

### Epistle

2 Peter 1:16-21

The congregation stands to sing

### Hymn 75

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

Deo Gracias

The congregation sits.

### Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

### Sermon

Holy Interruptions

Mike Krech

“While Peter was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”

Matthew 17:5

The congregation stands to sing

### Hymn 143

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

Diadem

### Apostles’ Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

### Gloria Patri 579

Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

### Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

### Offertory Sentence

### Offertory

Give Me Jesus

Arr. Fernando Ortega

The congregation stands to sing the

### Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

### Benediction

### Hymn 306

Fairest Lord Jesus

Crusaders’ Hymn

After the three stanzas in the hymnal, we also sing:

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man.**

**Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine.**

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

Battle Hymn of the Republic

William Steffe, 1856

**Welcome to worship** at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we conclude the Sundays after Epiphany with the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus, an appropriate final lesson for the season of light. As we began with the light of a star guiding the magi to Jesus’ cradle, today that light shines in the face of Jesus himself on the mountaintop. Peter, James, and John are granted this vision of the glorified Christ, which is to encourage their faith as the shadows arise when Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem and takes up the cross. The Transfiguration sustains our faith during the coming season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Today’s anthem and organ music celebrate Black history month. Babylon represents all repressive systems that crush the human spirit, while black spirituals lift the heart to God with hope, and the Battle Hymn of the Republic includes the line, “In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.” JMK

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **From All That Dwell Below the Skies**

From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through every land, in every tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song, To every land the strains belong:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In cheerful sound all voices raise And fill the world with joyful praise.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy word:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719;

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN; *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623; alt.

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

### **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

### **O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair**

O wondrous sight, O vision fair Of glory that the church shall share,  
Which Christ upon the mountain shows, Where brighter than the sun He glows!

From age to age the tale declare, How with the three disciples there,  
Where Moses and Elijah meet, The Lord holds converse high and sweet.

The law and prophets there have place, Two chosen witnesses of grace;  
The Father's voice from out the cloud Proclaims His only Son aloud.

With shining face and bright array Christ deigns to manifest today  
What glory shall be theirs above Who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high By this great vision's mystery,  
For which in joyful strains we raise The voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

Text: Latin, 15<sup>th</sup> century; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1861;

Tune: DEO GRACIAS; "The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415

### **All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**

All hail the power of Jesus' name, Let angels prostrate fall; Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall, Ye ransomed from the  
fall

Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball, On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, And crown Him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng, We at His feet may fall! We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, And crown Him Lord of all!

Text: Stanzas 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; stanzas 2-3, alt. John Rippon,  
1787; stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787;

Tune: DIADEM; James Ellor, 1838

## **Fairest Lord Jesus**

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O Thou of God to earth come down,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fairer still the woodlands, Robed in the blooming garb of  
spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, And all the twinkling, starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shine purer, Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man.

Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine.

Text: Münster *Gesangbuch*, 1677; Trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850; alt.

Tune: CRUSADER'S HYMN; Silesian folk melody, in *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842