

## CHURCH SESSION

### **Class of 2023**

Rosemary Gordon  
Sharon Raggianti  
Becky Stirling

### **Class of 2024**

Akwi Lillian Aseh  
Susie Hayes  
Janet Vawter  
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)

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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.

**February 26, 2023**

**The First Sunday in Lent**

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

**Prelude** Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy Southern Harmony, 1835  
Arr. Gayden Sykes

**Introit** Lead Me, Lord Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1861  
Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness; make Thy way plain before my face,  
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety. (Psalm 5:8;4:8)

## **Prayer to the Lamb of God**

After each section of the prayer, the pastor says, "Hear us as we pray,"  
The congregation joins the pastor, saying:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**Hymn 80** Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley Lonesome Valley

**Prayer of Confession** Unison  
God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.  
We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.  
We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,  
and great when we are small.  
We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.  
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.  
Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Savior ...

## **Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Kyrie 574** sung by all David N. Johnson, 1972

## **Concluding Prayer by the Pastor**

**Assurance of Pardon – Epistle** Romans 5:12-19

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 457** I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art Toulon

## 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, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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** Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7  
**Psalms 32:1-7,9-11** Unison

**Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.**

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

**Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

**You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;**

**you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.  
Do not be like a horse or mule, without understanding, whose temper  
must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.  
Many are the torments of the wicked  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.  
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

**Anthem** My Savior and My God Jay Althouse, 2014  
My life, my love I give to Thee; Thou Lamb of God who died for me. O may I ever faithful be,  
my Savior and my God. Thou who died on Calvary to save my soul and set me free, I'll dedicate  
my life to Thee. I'll live for Him who died for me. How richer then my life will be. I'll bow to  
Him on bended knee, my Savior and my God. (-- Ralph E. Hudson, 1882; alt.; Jay Althouse)

**Gospel** Matthew 4:1-11

**Sermon** Pilgrim Through This Barren Land Mike Krech  
"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." Matthew 4:1

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 281** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Cwm Rhondda  
**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** Be Thou But Near J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology 592** Old Hundredth

## Benediction

**Hymn 260** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Ein' Feste Berg

**Welcome to worship** at Grace Presbyterian Church. Today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent, which began with Ash Wednesday on February 22, and extends for 40 days (excluding Sundays), concluding with Holy Saturday, April 8. Our order of service seeks to reflect the penitential nature of this season, as we in heart and mind join Jesus in his 40 days in the wilderness, described in today's Gospel reading.  
JMK

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley**

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;  
O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves;  
O, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial, You have to stand it by yourself,  
O nobody else can stand is for you, You have to stand it by yourself.

Text: American Spiritual

Tune: LONESOME VALLEY; American Spiritual

### **I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art**

I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,  
My only trust and Savior of my heart.  
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;  
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.

Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,  
Reigning omnipotent in every place;  
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;  
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.

Thou art the life by which alone we live,  
And all our substance and our strength receive.  
Sustain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,  
And give us strength in every trying hour.

Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness,  
No harshness hast Thou and no bitterness;  
O grant to us the grace we find in Thee,  
That we may dwell in perfect unity.

Our hope is in no other save in Thee;  
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.

Text: Attr. John Calvin; French Psalter, Strassburg, 1545;

Trans. Elizabeth Lee Smith, 1868

Tune: TOULON; Adapt. from Genevan 124; Genevan Psalter, 1551

### **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land:  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through;  
Strong deliverer, Strong deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises, Songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1745; st.1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771;  
st.2-3, trans. William Williams, 1772; Tune: CWM RHONDDA; John Hughes, 1907

### **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and power are great, And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He,  
Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, We tremble not for him,  
His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

Text: Martin Luther, 1529; Trans. Frederick Henry Hedge, 1852;  
Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG; Martin Luther, 1529