

## CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon  
Sharon Ragghianti  
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.

**March 5, 2023**

**The Second Sunday in Lent**

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

**Prelude** The Glory of These Forty Days (Erhalt uns, Herr) arr. Wayne L. Wold

## **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 85**

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

## **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 4:1-5,13-17

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 488**

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

## 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**.)  
God of our forebears, as your chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown, so may your church be granted such faith that we may follow you with courage for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 12:1-4

**Psalm 121** Unison

I lift up my eyes unto the hills. From where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

**Anthem** And No Bird Sang Douglas E. Wagner, 1983  
Calm was the wind and dark was the sky when our Lord came to die.  
Lone on the cross for our sins He did hang and no bird sang.  
Women and men with anguish and fear then to His cross drew near.  
Hushed then to feel the bitter pang and no bird sang. *Kyrie, eleison.* Lord, have mercy,  
God's will be done. No bird sang in the sky when Christ did come to die. (-- Douglas E. Wagner)

**Gospel** John 3:1-17

**Sermon** Old Guys Learning New Things Mike Krech  
"So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; ... Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran." "Nicodemus said to (Jesus), 'How can these things be?'" Genesis 12:4; John 3:9

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 359** More Love to Thee, O Christ More Love to Thee  
**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** My Faith Looks Up to Thee with Ave Verum  
Lowell Mason; W.A. Mozart; arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology 592** Old Hundredth

**Benediction**

**Hymn 376** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Hyfrydol

**Welcome to worship** at Grace Presbyterian Church. Today is the second 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.  
JMK

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: American folk hymn, c. 1811;

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE; Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835;

Harm. *Cantate Domino*, 1980

### The God of Abraham Praise

The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;  
The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!  
The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven confessed,  
We bow before Your holy name, Forever blessed.  
Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will;  
In prophet's word You spoke of old, And You speak still.  
Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand,  
Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea or land.  
You have eternal life Implanted in the soul;  
Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll.  
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;  
The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same.

Text: Daniel ben Judah, 1404; Trans. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1885,  
alt.;

Tune: LEONI; Hebrew melody, Adapt. Thomas Olivers and Meyer Lyon, 1770

### **More Love to Thee, O Christ**

More love to Thee, O Christ, More love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make On bended knee. This is my earnest plea:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, More love to Thee!  
Once earthly joy I craved, Sought peace and rest;  
Now Thee alone I seek, Give what is best. This all my prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, More love to Thee!  
Then shall my latest breath Whisper Thy praise;  
This be the parting cry My heart shall raise. This still its prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee, More love to Thee!

Text: Elizabeth Payson Prentiss, 1856;

Tune: MORE LOVE TO THEE; William Howard Doane, 1870

### **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down.  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.  
Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast.  
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.  
Come, Almighty, to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never, Never-more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.  
Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747;

Tune: HYFRYDOL; Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831