

## CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon  
Sharon Ragghianti  
Becky Stirling

### Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh  
Susie Hayes  
Janet Vawter

### Class of 2025

Jere Lawson  
John Price  
Matthew Smith

Moderator: John Michael Krech  
Clerk: Becky Stirling  
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

## 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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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.

May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude** Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart Arthur Messiter, 1883; arr. David H. Lowe

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 455** All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen

## Easter Greeting

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People:** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**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**.)

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.  
Pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain  
your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**An Affirmation of Faith for Easter** Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

**Pastor:** What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**Unison:** **That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death,**

**not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,**

**who at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins**

**and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;**

**that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven**

**not a hair can fall from my head.**

**Indeed, everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.**

**Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life**

**and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

**Pastor:** The peace of the risen 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**

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 267** All Things Bright and Beautiful Royal Oak

The congregation sits.

## Prayer for Illumination

**Epistle** 1 Peter 3:13-22

**Psalm 66:8-11,12b-14,16-20** Unison

**Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

**For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.**

**You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;**

**We went through fire and through water;**

**yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.**

**I will come into your house with burnt offerings.**

**I will pay you my vows,**

**the vows I promised when I was in trouble.**

**Come and hear, all you who fear God,**

**and I will tell what God has done for me.**

**I cried aloud to God, and I sang God's praise with my tongue.**

**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.**

**But truly God has listened and given heed to the words of my prayer.**

**Blessed be God who has not rejected my prayer**

**nor removed his steadfast love from me.**

**Anthem** A Hymn For Plough/Rogation Sunday

As the days begin to lengthen, With the hallowing of the year,  
Christian people come to strengthen Faith and hope amid doubt and fear;  
Trusting all to God, the Father, High in heaven, and ever near.

And when soil is ripe for turning, Seeds of generous love are sown;  
Then, by grace and holy learning, Peace and providence can be known:  
Fruits of wisdom and compassion, In the Kingdom of the Son.

So we come in expectation, For the Spirit of God to bless  
Land and plough and all who labour With prosperity, joy and rest;  
'Til Creation, Church and Nation Come to know His loving best.

Glory be to God the Father: Great Creator of everything,  
And to Jesus Christ, our Saviour: Earth's Redeemer and heaven's King;  
And through God's abiding Spirit, Saints and Nature ever sing.

(-- Stephen Southgate, TSSF – May 2012; Tune:Regent Square)

**Lesson from Acts** Acts 17:16-34  
**Gospel** John 14:15-21

**Sermon** God Unknown and Known Mike Krech  
"What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you." Acts 17:23b

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 105** Because You Live, O Christ Vruechten

**Apostles' Creed** Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

**Gloria for Easter Season** Refrain of Hymn 122 Judas Maccabeus  
**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.**

**Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.**

The congregation sits.

## Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

## Offertory Sentence

**Offertory** Thy Word is Like a Garden, Lord Irish Tune: Clonmel  
arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing the

**Doxology for Easter Season** (to the tune of Hymn 455) Lasst Uns Erfreuen  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;**  
**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## Benediction

**Hymn 473** For the Beauty of the Earth Dix

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

**Postlude** Rejoice, the Lord Is King John Darwall, 1770 arr. Jason D. Payne

**Welcome to worship** at Grace Presbyterian Church on the sixth Sunday of Easter, and Mothers Day.  
Another theme today is the beauty and wonder of God's creation, traditionally observed as Rogation  
Days, days of prayer for successful planting of crops on the three days before Ascension Day. JMK

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, That givest us both warmth and light,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fertile earth, that day by day Unfoldest blessings on your way,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow, Let them God's glory also show!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And everyone of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part.  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and cast on God your care!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, your Creator bless, And worship God in humbleness.  
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, Three in One!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1225; Trans. and para. William Henry Draper, c. 1910, alt.

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

Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

## **All Things Bright and Beautiful**

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings:  
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. Repeat refrain.

The purple headed mountain, The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning That brightens up the sky. Repeat refrain.

The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. Repeat refrain.

God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well. Repeat refrain.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848;

Tune: ROYAL OAK; English melody, 17<sup>th</sup> century, Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915;

Harm. For *The Hymnbook*, 1953

## **Because You Live, O Christ**

Because You live, O Christ, The garden of the world has come to flower;  
The darkness of the tomb Is flooded with Your resurrection power.

Refrain:

The stone was rolled away And death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter Day, For Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen, has risen.

Because You live, O Christ, The spirit bird of hope is freed for flying;  
Our cages of despair No longer keep us closed and life-denying. (Refrain)

Because You live, O Christ, The rainbow of Your peace will span creation,  
The colors of Your love Will draw all humankind to adoration. (Refrain)

Text: Shirley Elena Murray, 1987;

Tune: VRUECHTEN; Dutch melody, 17<sup>th</sup> century; harm. Alice Parker, 1969

## **For the Beauty of the Earth**

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light. (Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight. (Refrain)

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild. (Refrain)

For Thy church that evermore Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love. (Refrain)

Text: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864;

Tune: DIX; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861;

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906