

## 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

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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.

July 2, 2023

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

### Prelude

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

arr. Lani Smith

The congregation stands to sing

### Hymn 262

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

National 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, in your perfect realm no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness,  
and there is no strength but the strength of love. So mightily spread abroad your Spirit,  
that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace as your  
children; and to you be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

## Prayer of Confession

Unison

**Almighty God, ruler of all the peoples of the earth,  
forgive, we pray, our shortcomings as a nation.**

**Purify our hearts to see and love truth.**

**Give wisdom to our counselors and steadfastness to our people,  
and bring us at last to that fair city of peace,  
whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill,  
and whose builder and maker you are;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord ...**

## Silent Prayers of Confession

### Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

### Hymn 561

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

America

**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 22:1-14

## Psalm 13

Unison

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death.

And my enemy will say, "I have prevailed."

My foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord, who has dealt bountifully with me.

## Anthem

Song for the Unsung Hero Joseph M. Martin, 2002

Let us sing for unsung heroes, those who lay their dreams aside, choosing honor more than glory, pledging faith with quiet pride, those whose uniform is courage, yet are unashamed of tears, finding in their love of freedom power stronger than their fears. Sing a song for unsung heroes from sea to shining sea. As the faithful sang before you, sing the song of liberty. Let us sing for unsung heroes, those who answer freedom's call, those united by one purpose, all for one and one for all. We will sing and not be silenced; we will keep our voices strong for as long as we keep singing, freedom's cry will still live on. My country, 'tis of thee ... Let us sing the song of freedom, the song of liberty.

(-- Pamela Martin, 2002)

## Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 408** Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

Germany

The congregation sits.

## Epistle

Romans 6:12-23

## Sermon

Confirm Thy Soul in Self-Control

Mike Krech

"But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification."

Romans 6:22

The congregation stands to sing

## Hymn 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

## 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

Living for Jesus

T.O. Chisolm and Harold Bowden

The congregation stands to sing the

## Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

## Benediction

## Hymn 564

O Beautiful, for Spacious Skies

Materna

Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and quickly now if necessary.

## Postlude

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Organ and Brass

(feel free to sing along)

**Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.** In the long season of Sundays after Trinity Sunday, also called Ordinary Time, we will read semi-continuously in Matthew's Gospel. The Epistle readings are from Romans and the Old Testament from Genesis. We seek to grow in our Christian faith, and green is the liturgical color. Today we also take note of the national Independence Day holiday.

JMK

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand**

God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,  
Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
Be Thy strong arm our ever-sure defense.  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
Thy boundless goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;  
Lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

Text: Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876, alt;

Tune: NATIONAL HYMN; George William Warren, 1892

### **My Country, 'Tis of Thee**

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing.  
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride,  
From every mountainside Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee, Land of the noble free, Thy name I love.  
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake, Let all that breathe partake,  
Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.

Text: Samuel Francis Smith, 1831;

Tune: AMERICA; *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, c. 1740

### **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light;  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James Weldon Johnson, 1921;

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE; J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

### **Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**

Where cross the crowded ways of life, Where sound the cries of race and clan,  
Above the noise of selfish strife, We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need, On shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,  
From paths where hide the lures of greed, We catch the vision of Thy tears.

From tender childhood's helplessness, From human grief and burdened toil,  
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress, Thy heart has never known recoil.

The cup of water given for Thee Still holds the freshness of Thy grace;  
Yet long these multitudes to see The sweet compassion of Thy face.

O Master, from the mountainside, Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
Among these restless throngs abide, O tread the city's streets again;

Till all the world shall learn Thy love, And follow where Thy feet have trod;  
Till glorious from Thy heaven above Shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank Mason North, 1905, alt.;

Tune: GERMANY; attr. Ludwig van Beethoven; Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

### **O Beautiful for Spacious Skies**

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain.  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern, impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

Text: Katherine Lee Bates, 1893;

Tune: MATERNA; Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882