

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

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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 23, 2023

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in C J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 469

Morning Has Broken

Bunessan

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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and live according to it, that we may grow in faith, hope and love, 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.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you.

You call, but we have not listened.

We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns.

We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.

God of grace, help us to admit our sin,

so that, as you come to us in mercy,

we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

St. George's, Windsor

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 28:10-19a

Psalm 139:1-12,23-24

Unison

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall guide me, your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart.

Test me and know my thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

Anthem Great Is Thy Faithfulness William Marion Runyan, 1923

Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, accompaniment

Epistle

Romans 8:12-25

Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Sermon

Who Says It's a Weed?

Dr. LindaJo McKim

"Let both of them grow together until the harvest ..."

Matthew 13:30

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 326 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Morecambe

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

A Simple Prayer Edvard Grieg; arr. Lani Smith

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 358

Help Us Accept Each Other

Baronita

Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

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

Postlude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church. In the long season of Sundays after Trinity Sunday, also called Ordinary Time, we read semi-continuously from Matthew's Gospel and from Genesis. As we seek to grow in our Christian faith, green is the liturgical color. Thanks to **Dr. LindaJo McKim** for leading worship and preaching today.

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dew fall On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness Where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's re-creation Of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931;

Tune: BUNESSAN; Gaelic melody; Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto God's praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day All offenses purge away;
Give the angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin.
There forever purified, In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, George Job Elvey, 1859

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,
And make me love Thee, as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength and mind?
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1854;

Tune: MORECAMBE; Frederick Cook Atkinson, 1870

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other As Christ accepted us;
Teach us, as sister, brother, Each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us And bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted And meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons As in our daily life
We struggle to be human And search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, For all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them Or as they may become.

Let Your acceptance change us, So that we may be moved
In living situations To do the truth in love;
To practice Your acceptance Until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness And laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters With all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance For righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, New hands for holding on;
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Text: Fred Kaan, 1975; Tune: BARONITA; Doreen Porter, 1975