

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

www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett

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.

September 17, 2023

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude in G

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 150

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Madrid

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 mercy: Help us to forgive as you have forgiven us. Help us to trust you, even when hope is failing. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow you in your redeeming work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:

**we have sinned against you through our own fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.**

For the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

forgive us all our offenses,

and grant that we may serve you

in newness of life to the glory of your Name ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

Unison

When Israel went out from Egypt,

the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel God's dominion.

The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

Why it is, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turns the rock into a pool of water,

the flint into a spring of water.

Anthem

Be Strong in the Lord

Tom Fettke, 1979

Be strong in the Lord and be of good courage; Your defender is He who is always the same.

Mount up with wings as the eagle ascending; Vict'ry is sure when you call on His name.

For He is your guide, and rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Put on the armor the Lord has provided; Place your defense in His unfailing care.

Trust Him for He will be with you in battle, Lighting your path to avoid ev'ry snare.

Your mighty commander will vanquish the foe. Fear not the battle, for the vict'ry is always His.

He will protect you wherever you go. Be strong. (--Linda Lee Johnson)

Epistle

Romans 14:1-12

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 347 Forgive Our Sins, as We Forgive

Detroit

The congregation sits.

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

Escaping Our Egypt

Mike Krech

“But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians.”

Exodus 14:29-30a

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 334 When Israel Was in Egypt's Land Go Down Moses

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 Amazing Grace arr. Wilbur Held

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 538 Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing Sicilian Mariners

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

Postlude How Majestic Is Your Name/Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
Arr. Larry Mayfield

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, Exodus, and Paul's letter to the Romans.

As we seek to grow in our Christian faith, green is the liturgical color. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

Text: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843;
Tune: MADRID; Spanish folk melody;
arr. Benjamin Carr, 1824; Harm. David Evans, 1927

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1779, stanzas 1-4; *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790, stanza 5;
Tune: AMAZING GRACE; *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.

How can Your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983

Tune: DETROIT; Supplement to *Kentucky Harmony*, 1820;

Harm. Margaret W Mealy (b. 1922)

When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land

When Israel was in Egypt’s land, Let my people go!
Oppressed so hard they could not stand. Let my people go!

Refrain:

Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt’s land, Tell old Pharaoh, Let my people go!

“Thus saith the Lord,” bold Moses said: Let my people go!

“If not, I’ll smite your firstborn dead,” Let my people go! (Refrain)

“No more shall they in bondage toil,” Let my people go!

“Let them come out with Egypt’s spoil,” Let my people go! (Refrain)

Text: African-American Spiritual

Tune: GO DOWN MOSES; African-American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen,
1989

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace,
O refresh us, O refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For Thy gospel’s joyful sound;
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound,
Ever faithful, ever faithful To the truth may we be found.

So that when Thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,
Let no fear of death appall us, Glad Thy summons to obey,
May we ever, may we ever Reign with Thee in endless day.

Text: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773; Stanza 1, line 6, alt. 1774 Conyers’ *Collection of Psalms*

Stanza 3 alt. Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS; Sicilian melody