

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.

October 8, 2023

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

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

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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

(This prayer was written by the children's Sunday School class, Sept. 17, 2023)

We know you forgive us.

So we can ask that you will forgive us:

when we don't listen, when we are not kind to others,

when we do not share with others, when we do not put you first in our lives.

Be with us, Lord, guiding us and the choices we make.

Help us to love you and others ...

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 166

The Heavens Above Declare God's Praise

Caithness

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

Stewardship Reflections

Mary Korowin

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Exodus 20:1-21

Psalms 19:1-12,14

Unison

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

Yet their line has gone out through all the earth

and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy

and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them;

and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Anthem

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth, 1986

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free. In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future: what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. Alleluia. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity. In our doubt there is believing; in our life eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something yet unknown, which God alone can see. (-- Natalie Sleeth, 1930-1992)

Epistle

Philippians 3:4b-14

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 100

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Rockingham

The congregation sits.

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

Sermon

To Love Tending the Vineyard

Mike Krech

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.”

Matthew 21:43

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 307

Fight the Good Fight

Duke Street

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

On Crusaders' Hymn

arr. James Pethel

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 467

How Great Thou Art

O Store Gud

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

Postlude

To God Be the Glory (Tune: Doane)

arr. Don Hustad

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might.
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish but naught changeth Thee.
Thou reignest in glory, Thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render, O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

Text: Walter Chambers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987;

Tune: ST. DENIO, Welsh folk melody, adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

The Heavens Above Declare God's Praise

The heavens above declare God's praise, The work God's hands have made;
Day after day the tale is told, And night by night displayed.
There is no utterance or speech, No voice is ever heard,
Yet to all nations comes the sound, To every place their word.
Forth like a bridegroom comes the sun From its appointed place,
And like a hero runs its course, Rejoicing in the race.
It runs from east to farthest west To make its course complete,
And nothing in the world beneath Escapes its scorching heat.

Text: Psalm 19:1-6; Christopher L. Webber, 1986;

Tune: CAITHNESS; Scottish Psalter, 1635; Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; alt.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the cross of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1707;

Tune: ROCKINGHAM; *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, 1783;

Harm. Edward Miller, 1790

Fight the Good Fight

Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Thy joy and crown eternally.
Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes and seek Christ's face;
Life with its way before us lies, Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
Cast care aside, lean on thy guide; God's boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
Faint not nor fear, God's arms are near; God changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see That Christ is all in all to thee.

Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1863, alt.

Tune: DUKE STREET, John Hatton (d. 1793)

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art! (Repeat)

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the bird sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; (Refrain)

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; (Refrain)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill me heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)

Text: Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885; English version: Stuart K. Hine, 1953;
Tune: O STORE GUD; Swedish folk melody; harm. Stuart K. Hine, 1949