

## 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, eaclewis@yahoo.com
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](http://www.grace-pres.org)

[www.facebook.com/GPCBartlett](https://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.

**November 12, 2023**

## The Bell Calls Us to Worship

**Prelude** Praise to God, Immortal Praise (Xavier) Francis H. Champneys  
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

The congregation stands to sing

**Hymn 476** O Worship the King, All Glorious Above Lyons

## 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**.)

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

## Prayer of Confession

Unison

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,**

**whose face is hidden from us by our sins,**

**and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:**

**Cleanse us from all our offenses,**

**and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,**

**that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you,**

**confessing our faults, confiding in your grace,**

**and finding in you our refuge and strength;**

**through Jesus Christ your Son. ...**

## Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing  
**Hymn 379** My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less Solid Rock

**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** Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25  
**Psalms 78:1-7** Unison

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonders God has done.

God established a decree in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,  
commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children;  
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,  
so that they should set their hope in God  
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

**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)

**Epistle** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The congregation stands to sing  
**Hymn 449** My Lord! What a Morning  
The congregation sits.

**Gospel** Matthew 25:1-13

**Sermon** Oil for Our Lamps Mike Krech  
“When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.” Matthew 25:3-4

The congregation stands to sing  
**Hymn 17** “Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us Wacht Auf  
**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** Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)  
Tune: Melita; John B. Dykes, 1861

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** God of Our Fathers (National Hymn) George W. Warren, 1892  
arr. Anna Laura Page

## Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

We are moving toward the end of the church's liturgical year. The new church year begins on December 3, the first Sunday in Advent. The Gospel themes for these final three Sundays of the current church year come from Matthew, chapter 25, where Jesus gives three parables about preparedness and accountability. Today's is the story of the wise and foolish maidens awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom. Similarly, hope in the return of Christ is central in our epistle reading today as Paul assures the Thessalonians that the death of loved ones in no way cancels the promise of resurrection or of Christ's return. We also take note of the Veterans Day holiday. (JMK)

## Hymn Texts for Online Worship

### **O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!**

O worship the King, all glorious above!

O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;

Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.

The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,  
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old;  
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

Text: Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

Tune: LYONS; Attr. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806); alt.

### **My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name: Refrain

Refrain:

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found,  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne. Refrain

Text: Edward Mote, c. 1834;

Tune: SOLID ROCK; William Batchelder Bradbury, 1863

## **My Lord! What a Morning**

Refrain:

My Lord! what a morning, My Lord! what a morning, Oh, my Lord! what a morning,  
When the stars begin to fall, When the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the trumpet sound To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand When the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the sinner cry To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand When the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the Christian shout To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand When the stars begin to fall. (Repeat refrain)

Text: African-American spiritual

Tune: African-American spiritual; Arr. Melva W. Costen, 1989

## **"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us**

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us; The shout of rampart guards surrounds us:

"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"

Midnight's peace their cry has broken, Their urgent summons clearly spoken:

"The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up and give us light; The Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there, That you the wedding feast may share."

Zion hears the watchmen singing, Her heart with joyful hope is springing;

She wakes and hurries through the night.

Forth He comes, her Bridegroom glorious In strength of grace, in truth victorious:

Her star is risen, her light grows bright.

Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia!

We follow all and heed Your call To come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore You; Let saints and angels sing before You,

As harps and cymbals swell the sound.

Twelve great pearls, the city's portals: Through them we stream to join the  
immortals

As we with joy Your throne surround.

No eye has known the sight, No ear heard such delight: Alleluia!

Therefore we sing to greet our King; Forever let our praises ring.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Tune: WACHET AUF;

attr. Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. J.S. Bach, 1731

### **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