

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

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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.

January 7, 2024

First Sunday after Epiphany/The Baptism of the Lord

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

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

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken Austrian 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, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Grant that all who are baptized into his name may keep the covenant they have made and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Confession of Sin

Unison

**Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life,
making us part of the body of Christ.**

**We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves,
separated from sisters and brothers in Christ.**

**We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges,
and are reluctant to welcome one another.**

In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin.

**Remind us of the promises you make in baptism,
so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace ...**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 495 We Know That Christ Is Raised Engelberg

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 1:1-5

Psalms 29:1-4,9-10,11b Unison

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name;

worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders, the Lord over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord causes the oak trees to whirl

and strips the forest bare, and in the temple all cry "Glory."

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

May the Lord bless the people with peace.

Anthem Come to the Water John S. Foley, S.J., 1978

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water, and let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord, without money, without price. Why should you pay the price except for the Lord?

And let all who seek ... without money, without strife. Why should you spend your life except for the Lord? And let all who toil... all who are weary, .. all who labor without rest. How can your soul find rest except for the Lord? And let all the poor ... bring the ones who are laden.

Bring the children without might, easy the load and light. Come to the water, to the Lord

Sung by Karen Schlichte and Susan Steppe

Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Lesson from Acts Acts 19:1-7

Sermon Into What Are You Baptized? Mike Krech

"John (told) the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." Acts 19:4

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 492 Baptized in Water Bunessan

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria Patri 579 Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

Installation of Ruling Elders

Sandy Kehrl, Brooks Keiser, AZ Ndingwan, Becky Stirling

Scripture Sentences

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Questions to the Elders Elect

The congregation stands to respond to the

Questions to the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept Sandy, Brooks, AZ, and Becky as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Hymn 524 Holy Spirit, Lord of Love Salzburg

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Installation

Declaration of Installation

Charge and Welcome

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Be Thou My Vision (Tune: Slane) arr. James Pethel

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 361 How Firm a Foundation Foundation

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

Postlude I Sing the Mighty Power of God (Tune Ellacombe)
arr. Mark Hayes and Douglas E. Wagner

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word cannot be broken, Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, Never fails from age to age.
Round each habitation hovering, See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them when they pray.

Text: John Newton, 1779; alt.

Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN; Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

We Know That Christ Is Raised

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death He broke its fearful hold;
And our despair He turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!
We share by water in His saving death.
Reborn we share with Him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!
The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!
A new creation comes to life and grows
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia! Amen.

Text: John Brownlow Geyer, 1969;

Tune: ENGELBERG; Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, Trusting the promise, Faithfully now God's praises we sing.
Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
One with His rising, Freed and forgiven, Thankfully now God's praises we sing.
Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit, Marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, We are God's children, Joyfully now God's praises we sing.

Text: Michael A. Seward, 1981;

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

Holy Spirit, Lord of Love

Holy Spirit, Lord of love, Who descended from above,
Gifts of blessing to bestow On Your waiting church below,
Once again in love draw near To Your servants gathered here;
From their bright baptismal day You have led them on their way.

When the sacred vow is made, When the hands on them are laid,
Come in this most solemn hour With Your strengthening gift of power.
Give them light Your truth to see; Give them life Your own to be,
Daily power to conquer sin, Patient faith the crown to win.

Text: William Dalrymple MacIagen, c. 1873; alt.

Tune: SALZBURG; Jacob Hintze, 1678; Harm. J.S. Bach (1685-1750);

As in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

How Firm a Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said that to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

Text: "K" in *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787; Ed. John Rippon; alt.

Tune: FOUNDATION; American folk melody; Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832