

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh
Susie Hayes

Class of 2025

Jere Lawson
John Price
Matthew Smith
Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Becky Stirling
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2026

Sandy Kehrli
AZ Ndingwan
Becky Stirling

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 in Word and Sacrament at 11:00 a.m.

January 14, 2024

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Lord, Here I Am John Ness Beck; arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 489 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty Unser Herrscher

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, your Son, Jesus Christ, now exalted as Lord of all, pours out spiritual gifts upon the church. Grant us that unity which your Spirit gives, keep us in the bond of peace, and bring all creation to worship before your throne; through the same 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

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone.**

And so uphold us by your Spirit

**that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord ...**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 391 Take My Life, and Let It Be Hendon

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

Welcoming Prayer of Blessing – Jason Tafah Eno and Mason Afah Eno
Twin sons, born October 11, 2023, to Colins Eno and Awaiwing Itambi

The children bring their ringing offering and come to the baptismal font for a

Time for Young Christians

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

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 high; I cannot attain it.

**For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

**My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

**In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God. How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them – they are more than the sand;

I come to the end – I am still with you.

Psalm Anthem

Wings of the Dawn

Linda A. Spencer, 1985

Gospel

John 1:43-51

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 423

Jesus Shall Reign

Duke Street

The congregation sits.

Sermon

Hearing Voices

Mike Krech

“Then the Lord called, ‘Samuel! Samuel! And he said, ‘Here I am.’”

1 Samuel 3:4

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 339

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Nicene Creed

Unison; Hymnal, page 15, Ecumenical

Gloria Patri 579

Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

Offertory Sentence

Offertory

Give Me Jesus

arr. Fernando Ortega

sung by April Milam

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

The congregation sits.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

You may come by the center aisle to receive the bread and cup from the minister and elders.

OR you may go to the table to the left and eat the bread and drink from a cup there.

Please give the person in front of you adequate time for a reverent Communion.

Place the empty cup in the basket provided. All Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Benediction

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

Worshippers are encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

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

Postlude

Spiritual Medley

arr. Susan Steppe

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there.
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace.
Gracious God, I come before Thee, Come Thou also down to me;
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heaven on earth must be;
To my heart O enter Thou, Let it be Thy temple now.
Speak, O Lord, and I will hear Thee, Let Thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near Thee, While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows, Here is balm for all our woes.
Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1732; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863;
Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1680;
Harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863; alt.

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee,
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Every power as Thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only all for Thee.
Text: Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874;
Tune: HENDON; H.A. Cesar Malan, 1827

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns; The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud Amen!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.;

Tune: DUKE STREET, John Hatton, d. 1793

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou
art

Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping Thy presence my
light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou
art.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me
Lord; Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Ancient Irish poem; Trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; Vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912;
alt.;

Tune: SLANE; Irish ballad; Harm. David Evans, 1927

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might led us into the light;
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James Weldon Johnson, 1921;

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE; J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921