

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, 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.

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him (Hyfrydol)

Arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 150

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Madrid

Easter Greeting

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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**.)
Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart locked, draw us beyond our doubts,
till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others; through Jesus
Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. **Amen.**

An Affirmation of Faith for Easter

Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Unison: **That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death,**

not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,

who at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins

and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;

that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven

not a hair can fall from my head.

Indeed, everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: The peace of the risen 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

First Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133 Unison

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity.
It is like precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

**It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

Gospel

John 20:19-31

Anthem Resurrection Hymn Keith Getty/Stuart Townend, 2003 Sung by Daniel Whitaker and Susan Steppe

See what a morning, gloriously bright, with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem,
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light, as the angels announce Christ is risen.
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ the Man, for He lives, Christ is risen from the dead.
See Mary weeping, where is He laid? As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb,
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name. It's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again.
The voice that spans the years, speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us
Will sound till He appears, For He lives; Christ is risen from the dead.
One with the Father, Ancient of Days, through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise to the King, crowned with power and authority,
And we are raised with Him. Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered,
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives, Christ is risen from the dead.

Epistle

Romans 6:1-11

Sermon

Our Preposterous Faith Dr. Donald K. McKim

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Hyfrydol
Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional
Gloria for Easter Season Refrain of Hymn 122 Judas Maccabeus
**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.**
The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Surely the Presence of the Lord Lanny Wolfe

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology for Easter Season (to the tune of Hymn 455) Lasst Uns Erfreuen
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia.**
**Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Benediction

Hymn 442 The Church's One Foundation Aurelia

**The congregation is encouraged to be seated for the postlude,
or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and quickly now if necessary.**

Postlude Lead On, O King Eternal (Lancashire) with
The Lord is My Light (Francis Allitsen) arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the second Sunday of the season of Easter, the Great Fifty Days from Easter Day to Pentecost (March 31 – May 19, 2024). This joyful season of the resurrection victory we celebrate in worship through our hymns, the Gloria and Doxology for the season, and an affirmation of faith in place of a prayer of confession. It has long been customary to omit confession of sin during the Easter season as an expression of the absolute victory over sin won for us by the Risen Lord. Another practice in Easter season is reading the first lesson from the Book of Acts. This fifth book of the New Testament, written by Luke, author of the third Gospel, records the spread of faith in the Risen Christ. Thanks to **Dr. Don McKim** for leading worship and preaching today.

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down.
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast.
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never, Never-more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747;
Tune: HYFRYDOL; Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation, By water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder This world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious, Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, May live eternally.

Text: Samuel John Stone, 1866; alt.

Tune: AURELIA; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864