

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2020

Rosemary Gordon
Brooks Keiser
Elizabeth Velazquez

Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke
Anna Tate
Janet Vawter

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp
Bob Gammon
Emily Mayne

Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Elizabeth Velazquez
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
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Organist	Susan Steppe, susansteppe@comcast.net
Director of Technical Services	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

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday in Advent

In the sanctuary and live streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude in B-Flat Major

J. S. Bach

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 7 Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth Mit Freuden Zart

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**.)

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the Second Candle in the Advent Wreath

Matt and Sue Cloughen

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, all stand to sing:

O come, Desire of na- tions, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;

Bid envy, strife and dis- cord cease, Fill the whole world with heav- en's peace.

Rejoice; rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Is- rael.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Grace Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA),
Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters.

Prayer for Illumination Becky Stirling
Old Testament Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 Unison

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people,

to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Interlude O Come, O Come Emmanuel/O Come, Divine Messiah
Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn arr. Stephen DeSare

Gospel Mark 1:1-8
Epistle 2 Peter 3:8-15

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 48 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Es Ist Ein' Ros'

The congregation sits.

Sermon At Peace, Waiting Mike Krech

“Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace,
without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.” 2 Peter 3:14

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 3 Comfort, Comfort You My People Psalm 42

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis Refrain of Hymn 23 Gloria

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

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

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Advent Medley – The Desert Shall Rejoice/

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 13 Prepare the Way Bereden Väg För Herran

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude Go Tell It on the Mountain arr. David Lowe

**Following the postlude, Pastor Mike Krech will be at the front of the church near the
chancel steps and welcomes conversation with any, while masked and physically distanced.**

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the second Sunday in Advent, the first season of the new liturgical year.

Isaiah 40, today's Old Testament, is believed to reflect the release of the people of Judah
from their captivity in Babylon in the 530's B.C. They are being allowed to return home

to Jerusalem, having “received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.”

Now God's care will lead them back home as a way for the Lord is made through
the wilderness, and God will feed the flock like a shepherd

Our Gospel reading from Mark 1 describes John the Baptizer as a forerunner of Jesus.

In the Epistle lesson today, Peter urges patience and faithfulness even if the coming
of the Lord seems slow. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

Lord Christ, when first You came to earth, Upon a cross they bound You.
And mocked Your saving kingship then, By thorns with which they crowned You.
And still our wrongs may weave You now New thorns to pierce that steady brow,
And robe of sorrow round You.

O wondrous love, which found no room In life, where sin denied You,
And, doomed to death, must bring to doom The power which crucified You,
Till not a stone was left on stone, And all a nation's pride o'erthrown,
Went down to dust beside You.

New advent of the love of Christ, shall we again refuse You,
Till in the night of hate and war We perish as we lose You?
From old un-faith our souls release To seek the kingdom of Your peace,
By which alone we choose You.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us Your new creation;
Our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, We wait Your revelation.
O Love that triumphs over loss, We bring our hearts before Your cross;
Come, finish Your salvation.

Text: Walter Russell Bowie, 1928; alt.

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART; Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright She bore for us a Savior, When half spent was the night.

Text: German carol, 15th century; Trans. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)

Alt. *Rejoice in the Lord*, 1985

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS'; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, Cologne, 1599;

Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting And the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.
Tune: PSALM 42; Genevan Psalter, 1551

Prepare the Way

Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion, He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen (1771-1847); Adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980; alt. 1989;
Tune BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN; *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697;
Arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930