

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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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 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 3, 2021

The Second Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany Observed

Live streamed online Only

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Star in the East (Southern Harmony) arr. Susan Steppe

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 56

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

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**.)

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Prayer of Confession

Unison

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
to reveal your love for all people.**

We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light.

We turn away from the poor;

we ignore cries for justice;

we do not strive for peace.

**In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, that, baptized with your Spirit,
forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 69 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Wie Schön Leuchtet

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

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 11-13

Unison

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son.

May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor among the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures,
as long as the moon through all generations.

May he be like the rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound until the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute.

May the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

May all kings fall down before him,
for he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor, and those who have no helper.

He has pity on the weak and saves the lives of the needy.

Bell Interlude We Three Kings of Orient Are

John Henry Hopkins, 1857; arr. Linda R. Lamb

Rosemary Gordon, Becky Stirling, hand bells; Susan Steppe, organ

Epistle

Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

Strangers Bearing Gifts

Mike Krech

“On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”
Matthew 2:11

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 68 What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright Puer Nobis Nascitur

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 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
John Schop, 1641; harm. J. S. Bach, 1734

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592

Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

Postlude

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (Lauda Anima)
John Goss, 1869; arr. Don Wyrzten

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today we conclude the Christmas cycle with the arrival of the Wise Men, as recorded in Matthew 2, fulfilling a vision seen in Isaiah 60 and Psalm 72. The worship of the Magi “from the East” (most likely Persia) is testimony that the gift of Christ is for all people.

JMK

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they a-keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star, Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

This star drew nigh to the northwest; O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

Then entered in those wise men three, Fell reverently upon their knee,
And offer there in His presence, Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, And with His blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)

Text: English carol, 17th century;

Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL; English carol; Sandy's *Christmas Carols*, 1833

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

O Morning Star, how fair and bright Thou beamest forth in truth and light!

O Sovereign meek and lowly!

Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son, My Lord and Savior Thou hast won

My heart to serve Thee solely!

Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all victorious, Rich in blessing,

Rule and might o'er all possessing.

Thou heavenly brightness! Light divine! O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar!

Fill me with joy and strength to be Thy member, ever joined to Thee

In love that cannot falter!

Toward Thee longing Doth possess me; turn and bless me; Here in sadness
Eye and heart long for Thy gladness!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1597; Alt. Johann Adolf Schlegel, 1768;

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863.

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET; Philipp Nicolai, 1599;

Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1740

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

What star is this with beams so bright, More lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King, Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed";
And lo! the Eastern sages stand To read in heaven the Lord's command.

O Jesus, while the star of grace Impels us on to seek Your face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse The guidance of Your light to use.

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one,
May every tongue and nation raise An endless song of thankful praise.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1736; Trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt;

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR; Trier ms., 15th century;

Adapt Michael Praetorius, 1609; Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1910

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858;

Tune: DIX; Conrad Kocher, 1838; Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861;

Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906