

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2021

Rickie Cooke
Anna Tate
Janet Vawter

Class of 2022

Kevin Bopp
Bob Gammon
Emily Mayne

Class of 2023

Rosemary Gordon
Sharon Ragghianti
Becky Stirling

Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Becky Stirling
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Director of Music	Charlotte Eaheart Hicks, CCM, charlotteschurch@gmail.com
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

Grace Presbyterian Church

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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.

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (Tune: Unser Herrscher)
Joachim Neander, 1680; arr. Anna Laura Page

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 113 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today! Llanfair

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**.)
Almighty God, you sent Jesus, our good shepherd, to gather us together. May we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23 (KJV)

Unison

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;

He leadeth me beside the still waters;

He restoreth my soul;

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil.

For Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Musical Meditation

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (Tune: Maitland)

Attributed to George Nelson Allen, 1850; arr, Stephen DeCesare

Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn; Susan Steppe, piano

Epistle

1 John 3:16-24

Gospel

John 10:11-18

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 172 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Resignation

The congregation sits.

Sermon

The Risen Shepherd

Mike Krech

“No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again.”

John 11:18a-c

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 108

Christ Is Alive!

Truro

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

God Still Lives

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

transcribed for organ by Arthur Wildman

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 Him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Benediction

Hymn 171

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

St. Columba

The congregation is encouraged to be seated for the postlude,

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

Postlude

Postlude on the tune Webb (Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus)

George Webb, 1837; arr. Jason Payne

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the fourth Sunday of the season of Easter, which extends through the Great Fifty Days from Easter Day to Pentecost (April 4 – May 23, 2021). This joyful season of resurrection victory is celebrated 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 common 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. This fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday, as our Psalm is Psalm 23 and the Gospel reading is from John 10, where Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd.

(JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

“Christ the Lord is risen today!” Alleluia! All creation join to say; Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia! Sing, O heaven, and earth reply, Alleluia!
Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise; Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save; Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to You by both be given, Alleluia!
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.;

Tune: LLANFAIR; Robert Williams, 1817; Harm. David Evans, 1927

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His name:
In pastures fresh He makes me feed Beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back When I forsake His ways;
And leads me, for His mercy’s sake, In paths of truth and grace.
When I walk through the shades of death Your presence is my stay;
One word of Your supporting breath Drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, Does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, Your oil anoints my head.
The sure provisions of my God Attend me all my days;
O may Your house be my abode, And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, While others go and come;
No more a stranger or a guest, But like a child at home.

Text: Paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Isaac Watts, 1719; alt, 1972;

Tune: RESIGNATION; Walker’s *Southern Harmony*, 1835;

Harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986

Christ Is Alive

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now, And touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life, Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war, Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, And lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive and comes to bring Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian Wren 1968, rev.;

Tune: TRURO; Thomas Williams, 1789; Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His, And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid, And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever.

Text: Henry Williams Baker, 1868;

Tune: ST. COLUMBA; Ancient Irish melody