



**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome  
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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***Church Staff & Officers***

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**Brad Wright**

*Lead Pastor*

**Kyle Bobos**

*Associate Pastor*

**Jaime Jimenez**

*Assistant Pastor*

**Caleb McDuffee**

*Student Ministries*

**Elders**

*Brent Allmon*

*Dan Brink*

*Jon Green*

*Rob McIntosh*

*Mark Moore*

*Damon Webster*

*Andy Yung*

**Diaconal Ministry Team**

*Byron Bevers*

*Matt Bradshaw*

*Ann Green*

*Mark Hill*

*Scott Johnston*

*Jennifer McIntosh*

*Bev Moncla*

*Mike Ryan*

*Joe Tison*

*Sunny Yung*

Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

## Reflections

“So your task is not to transform into a superficial, sunny optimist. It is to grow to be an optimist by faith. The kingdom is advancing; God’s reign is spreading; there will be justice; and when we belong to Christ, it will end with joy.”

– Edward T. Welch, *Running Scared*

Worry is not believing God will get it right, and bitterness is believing God got it wrong.

– Timothy Keller

“Fear in a believer is a function of forgetfulness. To the degree that you forget who God is, who you are as his child, and what you have been given by his grace, fear is your default emotion.”

– Paul David Tripp

+ ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + **EPIPHANY** + LENT + EASTER + PENTECOST +

### **EPIPHANY SEASON**

The word epiphany is used three times in the Scriptures. Two of the references speak of the second coming (Titus 2:13 & 2 Thess. 2:8). The third time the word epiphany appears it refers to the first coming of Christ that brings grace to abolish death and bring both life and immortality through the gospel (2 Tim. 1:9-10). Epiphany ends the season of Christmas and leads us further into the life of Jesus, leading up to his baptism and ministry. We now begin to reflect on Jesus as the manifestation of God’s love by sending his one and only son into the world so that we might live through him (I John 4:9). Jesus fulfills the Father’s promise to bring his kingdom of peace and hope to our world.

# Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, January 5, 2025

*Epiphany Sunday*

10:30 am

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

## Preparation for Worship<sup>1</sup>

*Praise*

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## Call to Worship

Minister: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things  
God has done:

*People: The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!*

Minister: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things  
God has done:

*People: The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!*

Minister: O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things  
God has done:

*All: The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,  
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!*

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<sup>1</sup> As a courtesy, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Thank you!

## Song of Praise

*Holy Holy Holy*

John Bacchus Dykes and Reginald Heber

Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to thee  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons,  
Blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore thee  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Falling down before thee,  
Which were, and art,  
And evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide thee  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy:  
There is none beside thee  
Perfect in power,  
In love and purity.

## Prayer of Adoration

## Confession of Faith

## *Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic<sup>2</sup> church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> \*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places

## Song of Adoration

*Before the Throne*

Charitie Lees Bancroft

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea.  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands,  
My name is written on his heart.  
I know that while in heaven He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the wrong within,  
Upward I look and see him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on him and pardon me,  
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,  
My perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
The King of glory and of grace,  
One with Himself I cannot die.  
My soul is purchased by His blood,  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Savior and my God,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

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*Renewal*

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Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

### Confession of Sin

*Minister*

*& People:*

*God of glory and of love, You have called us to love one another as you have loved us, and we confess before you our complete failure and unwillingness to obey this command. We are often consumed with jealousy of our brothers and sisters, harboring deep hatred in our hearts toward them. We are apathetic and neglectful towards some, and we look down our noses at others. Instead of laying down our lives for others, we require them to serve us, and resent them when they fail to meet our expectations. Forgive us, Lord. Holy Spirit, we need your strength and help to survive our many failures to love others every day. Give us swift and true repentance. Convict our selfishness and pride, and soften our hearts to cherish and love one another. Help us to believe that you love us, and cause that love to transform us radically into people who extend grace and mercy to others.*

### Private Confession and Reflection

#### Assurance of Pardon

Minister: The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us rejoice that Jesus has come for us!

People: *Through Christ our King, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!*



# Song of Thanksgiving

*By Faith*

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness  
Who walk by faith and not by sight

By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand  
A place where peace and justice reign

Chorus:  
We will stand as children of the promise  
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward  
Till the race is finished and the work is done  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death  
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go  
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In ev'ry corner of the earth (chorus)

By faith the mountain shall be moved  
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For all who call upon His name (chorus)

## **The Prayers of the People** (concluded with the Lord's prayer)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen!*

## **The Peace of God and Announcements**

Minister:       The peace of Christ be with you.

*People:       And also with you!*

*If parents prefer, children 4 years old – 2nd grade  
are invited to attend Children's Church in the Education Building at this time.*

## **Doxology**

Thomas Ken & Bob Kauflin

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
In heaven above and earth below  
Praise God the Father and the Son  
Praise God the Spirit, three-in-one. Amen.

## **Announcements**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Commitment* \_\_\_\_\_

## The Offering

The offering is a way for members and friends of Grace Church to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give.

## Scripture Reading

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ.

Leader: This is the Word of the LORD.

*People: Thanks be to God!*

## Sermon

**Pastor Jaime Jimenez**

*Anxiety vs Peace*

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## Communion

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### *Guidelines for Reception of Communion*

*Communion is the family meal for Christians. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer using the prayers that follow as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his people, the church.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts.

*People: We lift them up to the Lord!*

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

*People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!*

Minister: Together we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*

## Song of Communion

### *The Wonderful Cross*

Chris Tomlin, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves, Lowell Mason, and Isaac Watts

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride

See from His head His hands His feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Chorus:

O the wonderful cross

O the wonderful cross

Bids me come and die and find

That I may truly live

O the wonderful cross

O the wonderful cross

All who gather here by grace

Draw near and bless Your name

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were an offering far too small  
Love so amazing so divine  
Demands my soul my life my all (chorus)

## Prayer of Consecration and the Words of Institution

### Prayer for those not communing:

#### Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

#### Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

#### Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

#### Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

#### Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

## Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Once the stations are ready, please come forward, row by row, to receive the elements. Once everyone has returned to their seat, we will stand together and sing the final verse from our Song of Commitment.

## Song of Commitment

## *The Wonderful Cross*

Chris Tomlin, J. D. Walt, Jesse Reeves, Lowell Mason, and Isaac Watts

Chorus:

O the wonderful cross

O the wonderful cross

Bids me come and die and find

That I may truly live

O the wonderful cross

O the wonderful cross

All who gather here by grace

Draw near and bless Your name

## Benediction<sup>3</sup>

## 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

## Dismissal

Minister: Now, let us go forth to serve this community and the world as those who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All: Thanks be to God!*

*The pastoral staff and other church leaders are available following the service to pray with you or to answer your questions about the Christian faith or Grace Church*

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<sup>3</sup> The benediction is much more than a wish or even a prayer. It is a renewed ordination of the people of God to their service to each other, to their community and the world. God declares his own favor toward his people.

## Worship Music

Joe Beam, drums  
Daniel Campbell, piano  
Fang Daniels, cello  
Stephanie Taylor, vocalist  
Tim Taylor, guitar & vocalist

## \_\_\_\_\_ Welcome, Guests! \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome to Grace Presbyterian Church!** If you would like us to keep you in the loop with what's going on at GPC, *please take a moment to fill out the visitor information form by using the QR code.* We would be happy to meet you!



**Ways to Connect at Grace** where you can explore, engage, and get involved throughout the week.



- **Church Center App** (GPC Woodlands), use this QR code for a quick link to the app.
- **Our church website**, <https://www.gracewoodlands.org/>

## \_\_\_\_\_ Announcements \_\_\_\_\_

**Our Grace Guest** wifi password is *GraceGuest*.

**Stewardship Update:** Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for 2024.

**General Fund Giving for November: \$111,816**

\$,1092,232: Jan. - Nov. 2024 General Fund Budget

\$1,027,448: Jan. - Nov. 2024 Actual General Fund Income

(\$64,784): 2024 Variance

\*2024 GF Budget \$1,191,526

## **Children's Ministries:**

- **Parents of Infants-Three-Yr Olds:** Our nursery classes (ages 8 weeks thru 3 years) provide a warm, nurturing, and well-supervised environment. Our Staff welcomes the opportunity to love your child! When using the nursery, please check-in and label all items (bags, cups, etc.) with your child's name. Contact our Families Pastor, Kyle Bobos, at [kyle@gpcwoodlands.org](mailto:kyle@gpcwoodlands.org) if you have any questions about the nursery.
- **Children's Church is for children ages 4 through 2nd grade.** During the passing of the peace, the children line up with their leader in the back of the sanctuary to exit worship. During the song of communion, children will rejoin their families to observe communion with the rest of the church body. We will gather in room 108 in the Education Building to sing songs, pray, and hear a children's sermon.

**Banners Explained:** The visuals of the worship space change dramatically from the Fourth Sunday of Advent to the celebration of Christmas. White, yellow, and gold are the colors of Christmas. These colors bring to mind the angels, the star of peace, the shepherds, the manger, and Jesus coming to earth as the light of the world. All of these things combine to communicate that this season of Christmas is a time of joy and light.

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