



**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*

*Andy Yung*

**Deacons**

*Matt Bradshaw*

*Mark Hill*

*Scott Johnston*

*Mike Ryan*

*Joe Tison*

*Sunny Yung*

## Reflections

The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

—Solzhenitsyn

All that matters is that God's Word be given free course to encourage and enliven hearts so that they do not become burdened.

—Martin Luther

Reformation ends not in contemplation, but in action.

—George Gillespie

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

### **LENT SEASON**

Ash Wednesday begins the journey of Lent. Its theme is repentance and renewal. Ashes are placed on the forehead as a sign of repentance, remembering that “from dust you came and to dust you shall return.” Beginning with Ash Wednesday the call that prevails throughout the Lenten journey is to “create and make in us new and contrite hearts.” While it is God who creates that new heart in us through grace, we are called on to receive God's grace in repentance, a turning from our sin, and in faith, a turning toward God. We are assisted in this journey of turning through fasting, prayer, and giving—external disciplines that order and organize the internal experience of our continuing conversion. We walk with Christ toward Good Friday and Easter as we contemplate the sacrifice he will make.

# Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, March 3, 2024

10:30 am

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

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

*Praise*

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## Call to Worship

**Ephesians 1:3-4**

Minister: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

*People: who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.*

Minister: For he chose us in him before the creation of the world

*People: that we might be holy and blameless before God.*

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

## Song of Praise

*All Glory Laud And Honor*

Melchior Teschner, Theodulph Of Orleans, and John Mason Neale

Chorus:

All glory laud and honor  
To Thee Redeemer King  
To whom the lips of children  
Make sweet hosannas ring

Thou art the King of Israel  
Thou David's royal Son  
Who in the Lord's name comest  
The King and Blessed One (chorus)

To Thee before Thy passion  
They sang their hymns of praise  
To Thee now high exalted  
Our melody we raise (chorus)

Thou didst accept their praises  
Accept the prayers we bring  
Who in all good delightest  
Thou good and gracious King

## Prayer of Adoration

## Confession of Faith

WSC Q. 36

Minister: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

People: *The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.*

## Song of Adoration

## *Jesus With Thy Church Abide*

Thomas Benson Pollock

Jesus with Thy church abide  
Be her Savior Lord and Guide  
While on earth her faith is tried  
We beseech Thee hear us  
We beseech Thee hear us

Keep her life and doctrine pure  
Grant her patience to endure  
Trusting in Thy promise sure  
We beseech Thee hear us  
We beseech Thee hear us

May she one in doctrine be  
One in truth and charity  
Winning all the world to Thee  
We beseech Thee hear us  
We beseech Thee hear us

May she holy triumphs win  
Overthrow the hosts of sin  
Gather all the nations in  
We beseech Thee hear us  
We beseech Thee hear us

## Call to Renewal

I John 4:16

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

## Confession of Sin

*Minister  
& People:*

*Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we refuse to bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your word and table and unite us to Christ, the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace. Amen.*

## Private Confession and Reflection

### Words of Encouragement

2 Cor. 1:21-22

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

In Christ and by the power of the Spirit, you are forgiven!

## Song of Thanksgiving

## *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*

Isaac Watts and Lowell Mason

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

Forbid it Lord that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ my God  
All the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to His blood

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

## **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**

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

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### *Commitment*

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## 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

### Genesis 39:1-21

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. 20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

Minister:        This is the Word of the LORD.

*People:        Thanks be to God!*

*Lust*  
**THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS**

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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

*Just As I Am*

Charlotte Elliott, Bobby Guy, and Craig Brown

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee Whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## 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**

*Just As I Am*

Charlotte Elliott, Bobby Guy, and Craig Brown

Just as I am Thou will receive,  
Will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

## Benediction<sup>2</sup>

## 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.  
The Lord be with all of you.

## 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*

## Worship Music

Fang Daniels, cello  
Rae Moses, piano  
Jennifer Reddick, flute  
Carole Mason, vocalist  
Debra Moses, vocalist

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<sup>2</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.

## \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

January GF Budget	\$99,294	
Actual January GF Receipts	\$55,817	
Variance	(\$43,477)	*2024 GF Budget \$1,191,526

**Palm Sunday Choir.** All interested singers are Invited to sing in our Palm Sunday Choir. High School through adult are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in room 108. Music reading ability is helpful but not required. We will sing during the worship service on March 24th. We look forward to having you join us. For further information, contact Debra Moses.

### **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 change of colors for Lent and the following Sundays helps communicate the movement of sacred time as well as our journeys. The color purple is a visual reminder of our need for repentance and self-examination.

On the banner to the right is an acanthus. It is the leaf that you see all over classic Greek and Roman architecture. It is a thorny plant, and a few have speculated that it may have been the source of the crown of thorns. Within Christianity, the thorns are a symbol of pain, and of sin and its punishment. It was regarded in ancient times by pagans as a symbol of death and rebirth.

On the other is a thistle. The thistle is a symbol of temporal sorrow and the curse of sin from the story of the Fall. Because the thistle is a thorny bush, it also is often portrayed as the source of Christ's crown of thorns. Because thistles flourish to crowd out useful crops, they have also been used to represent the "tares" or weeds written of in Matthew 13.