



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.*

Church Staff & Officers

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

By an unbreakable chain, love for God is tied to and verified by love for other believers.

—D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John*

The word *remain* or *abide* can confuse us. We have a tendency to turn it into an emotion or an experience. Jesus is talking about a fixed reality. He's saying, "True disciples are connected to me. We are united together. Now abide in me. Remain connected to me. Get your life from me. Live your life out of your connection with me."

—Matt Carter and Josh Wredberg, *Exalting Jesus in John*

If we want to be effective Christians, fruitful disciples, helpful persons, then being at home with Jesus is the necessary and, indeed, the indispensable condition.

—Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Gospel of John*

+ 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 16, 2025

10:30 am

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

Psalm 9:1-2

Minister: We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart; we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

People: *We will be glad and exult in you; we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*

¹ 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!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy,
Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons,
Blessed Trinity!

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Cornerstone

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, and William Batchelder Bradbury

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

Chorus:
Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil (chorus 2x)

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

_____ *Renewal* _____

Call to Renewal

Mark 1:14-15

Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Confession of Sin

*Minister
& People:*

Gracious Father, many of us come before you today with troubled hearts and minds. We are fearful about our relationships, our health, our finances, our families, our futures, and many other things. We have a hard time believing in you in a way that would bring comfort to our hearts. Instead we greatly doubt your love and concern for us, and sometimes even your very existence. We are not calmed by your promises given to us in your Scriptures. Forgive our unbelief.

Holy Spirit, help us to believe in and rest in Christ. Help us to believe that in his death we died, and that in his resurrection we are raised to new life. Give us the joy and peace that should flow from that reality, as we continue to face the broken world in which we live, especially as we face the final enemy, death itself. Help us to live in the light of our full forgiveness, and to die with great confidence in the sufficiency of your grace to us in Jesus Christ. In his name we pray, Amen.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Psalm 121: 1-5

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip — he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

Song of Thanksgiving

Your Love Defends Me

Hannah Kerr and Matt Maher

You are my joy You are my song
You are the well the One I'm drawing from
You are my refuge my whole life long
Where else would I go

Chorus:

Surely my God is the strength of my soul
Your love defends me
Your love defends me
And when I feel like I'm all alone
Your love defends me
Your love defends me

Day after day night after night
I will remember You're with me in this fight
Although the battle it rages on
The war's already won
I know the war is already won (chorus 2x)

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

John 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Minister: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Pastor Kyle Bobos

Where Do You Make Your Home?
I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Communion

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

Abide With Me

Henry Francis Lyte and Justin Smith

Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When fail my helpers and my comforts flee
Help of the helpless abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me oft as I left Thee
On to the close Lord abide with me

Be thou beside me every passing hour
What buy thy favor foils the tempters power
Who else but thou Lord can my captain be
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me

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

Abide With Me

Henry Francis Lyte and Justin Smith

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Thine in the twilight point me to the skies
Heav'n's morning open, earth's vain shadows flee
In life in death Lord abide with me

Benediction²

Jude 24-25

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

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.

² 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

Daniel Campbell, piano
Luke Hubley, percussion
Jennifer Reddick, flute
Stephanie Taylor, vocals
Tim Taylor, guitar and vocals

_____ 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 2025.

	<u>2025</u>	
Feburary GF Budget	\$100,000	
Actual February GF Receipts	\$72,351	
Variance	(\$27,649)	*2025 GF Budget \$1,200,00

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 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 banners hanging today are textile renderings of watercolor originals by Kirsten Malcolm Berry. The banner on the right is her interpretation of Revelation 22:2 "And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." The banner on the left is her interpretation of Mark 15:38 "And the curtain of the temple was torn in two." Each piece includes the Greek text. The works are bordered by purple, the color of Lent and associated with royalty and suffering. The designs were reproduced with the artist's permission. You can view more of Ms. Berry's work at <http://www.kirstenmalcolmberry.com/>.

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