



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

Andy Yung

Deacons

Matt Bradshaw

Mark Hill

Scott Johnston

Mike Ryan

Joe Tison

Sunny Yung

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

Reflections

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Cost of Discipleship

He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.

— Jim Elliot

+ 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 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

10:30 am

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

based on **John 12:13**

Minister: King Jesus comes, King Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah.

People: Hail! King Jesus, King of all!

Minister: Recall the words of the Scriptures: "A great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.'"

People: In praise we adore you, King Jesus. Enter our hearts today as you entered Jerusalem long ago, and lead us by faith in the way everlasting. Amen!"

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

Presentation of Palms

Song of Praise

Oh How Good It Is

Stuart Townend, Kristyn Getty, Keith Getty, and Ross Holmes

Oh how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit
In faith and unity
Where the bonds of peace
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence
Here among us

Chorus:
So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people

Oh how good it is
On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn
For the weak find strength
The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging (chorus)

Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another
Forgive as He forgives
When we live as one
We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father
And the Spirit (chorus)

Prayer of Adoration

Confession of Faith

Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Song of Adoration

Across The Lands
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

You're the Word of God the Father
From before the world began
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice
Let the skies declare Your glory
Let the land and seas rejoice

Chorus:

You're the author of creation
You're the Lord of ev'ry man
And Your cry of love rings out
Across the lands

Yet You left the gaze of angels
Came to seek and save the lost
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross
With a prayer You fed the hungry
With a word You stilled the sea
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free (chorus)

With a shout You rose victorious
Wresting victory from the grave
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in Your wake
Now You stand before the Father
Interceding for Your own
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home (chorus)

Renewal

Call to Renewal

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Confession of Sin

*Minister
& People:*

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

I John 3:1

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

New Member Recognition

Song of Thanksgiving

All Things New
Andrew Peterson

Come broken and weary.
Come battered and bruised.
My Jesus makes all things new,
All things new.

Come lost and abandoned.
Come blown by the wind.
He'll bring you back home again,
Home again.

Chorus:

Rise up, oh you sleeper, awake,
The light of the dawn is upon you.
Rise up, oh you sleeper, awake,
He makes all things new.
All things new.

Come frozen with shame.
Come burning with guilt.
My Jesus, he loves you still,
He loves you still. (chorus)

Bridge:

The world was good, the world is fallen,
The world will be redeemed,
The world was good, the world is fallen,
The world will be redeemed,

So hold on to the promise.

The stories are true that Jesus makes all things new. (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

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

Missions Partners Update

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 17:1-3

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Minister: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

GOD'S MISSIONS

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

Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor Henrietta Hull and Mary Elizabeth Byrne

Be Thou my vision
O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me
Save that Thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping
Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom
And Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father
I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling
And I with Thee one

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

Be Thou My Vision

Eleanor Henrietta Hull and Mary Elizabeth Byrne

High King of heaven
My vict'ry won
May I reach heaven's joys
O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart
Whatever befall
Still be my vision
O Ruler of all

Benediction²

Numbers 6:24-26

24 "The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
26 the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace."

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

Fang Daniels, cello
Rae Moses, piano
Hetti Prior, violin
Jennifer Reddick, flute
Stephanie Taylor, vocalist
Tim Taylor, vocalist & guitar

_____ 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 February: \$65,563

\$198,588: Jan. - Feb 2024 General Fund Budget

\$121,380: Jan. - Feb 2024 Actual General Fund Income

(\$77,208):2024 Variance

*2024 GF Budget \$1,191,526

Holy Week Schedule:

- March 29th: Good Friday Service at 6 pm.
- March 30th: GraceLife Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch from 10 am-12 pm at Grace.
- March 31st: Easter Worship Services 9 am & 10:30 am.

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.

GraceKids is a part-time childcare option for families! Mother's Day Out offers instruction, care, and fun to children 6 months-4 years. Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am-2pm. We offer low ratios and two teachers in every classroom. Message Bailey at mothersdayout@gpcwoodlands.org for more info!

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.