



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

The way to lose fear is to gain faith.

— John R.W. Stott

Remember Jesus of Nazareth, staggering on broken feet out of the tomb toward the Resurrection, bearing on his body the proud insignia of the defeat which is victory, the magnificent defeat of the human soul at the hands of God.

— Frederick Buechner

The resurrection is not the reversal of a defeat but the proclamation of a victory. The King reigns from the tree. The reign of God has indeed come upon us, and its sign is not a golden throne but a wooden cross.

— Leslie Newbigin

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

Easter

In the Christian year, Easter is indeed an event - the event of the glorious resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Easter is the source event of all the events of the Christian year. It is like the neck of the hourglass. Every event of the Christian year flows into Easter, even as all the events of the Christian year flow from Easter. The notion that Christ must be resurrected in us is a primary theme for Easter Sunday. Indeed the personal dimension of the entire Christian year flows from this subjective experience of the Easter event. If Christ has truly been raised in us, then we can experience the waiting of Advent and the joy of Christmas. We can become an epiphany. We can truly walk the Lenten road that leads us to the resurrection. Easter is also a season that extends from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, taking us through Jesus' ascension to the beginning of the church.

Webber, Robert E. — Ancient-Future Time (Ancient-Future): Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year.

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

9:00 am & 10:30 am

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

-based on **1 Peter 1:3-5**

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Minister: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Minister: God has claimed us as his own.

People: He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Song of Praise

Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Charles Wesley

Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your voice and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ has burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Confession of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism² (Q/A 40-43)

Minister: Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

All: Because God's justice and truth demand it: only the death of God's Son could pay for our sin.

Minister: Why was he “buried”?

All: His burial testifies that he really died.

Minister: Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

All: Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it puts an end to our sinning and is our entrance into eternal life.

Minister: What further advantage do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

All: Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may dedicate ourselves as an offering of gratitude to him.

² The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

Song of Adoration

There Is One Gospel
Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Saviour I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine
For he has promised I too will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Scripture Reading

John 20:10-18

Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Confession of Sin

ALL: Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

Private Confession and Reflection

Know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Matthew Merker

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

Chorus:

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ (chorus)

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore (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 Christ

Minister: Christ is Risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Minister: For this day moves us past darkness and despair. Christ has defeated death and calls us to himself.

People: Christ is risen and his promises are sure!

Minister: May the peace of our risen Lord 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.*

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

Matthew 22:36-40

36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Minister: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Pastor Brad Wright

Everything Hangs on This

Communion

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion is a 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: How does Christ's resurrection benefit you?

People: First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he won for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already now resurrected to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.

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: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Song of Communion

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren

What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer.
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
For by my side the Savior, he will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my shepherd will defend me.
Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.
Jesus now, And ever, is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in 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

Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus.
All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Dismissal

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

ALL: Thanks be to God! He is risen indeed!

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 Music⁴

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Fang Daniels, cello
Graeme Francis, percussion
Rae Moses, piano
Stephanie Taylor, vocalist
Tim Taylor, guitar & vocalist

³ 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.

⁴ All songs except hymns are copied under CCL # 1214497. The hymns are reprinted from *Trinity Hymnal* (© 1990, Great Commission Publications). Used by permission. All Scripture is quoted from, unless otherwise indicated, the *THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION*®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission

_____ 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

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. If you have any questions about the Nursery, contact Kyle Bobos at kyle@gpcwoodlands.org.
- **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.

Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily is the floral symbol of Easter because its shape resembles a trumpet that heralds the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following people have purchased Easter Lilies to place in the sanctuary. Thanks so much for adding to this glorious day! *You are welcome to take your lilies home after the 2nd service.

In Memory of:

Katie Clawson/ Bobos Family
Maddie Opperman & Janet Mathis/ Bobos Family
Our Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Conde and Mr. & Mrs. Schroeder/ Buster & Cheryl Schroeder
James R. & Eloise Bennett/ James M. Bennett
Betty Lue Moore & Lou Dean Adam/ James M. Bennett
Caleb Graham Larson/ Jon & Connie Graham
Dick & Joan Shimeall/ Fred & Lisa Whitla
Jim & Mabel Whitla/ Fred & Lisa Whitla
Frank & Olesia Chuchmuch/ The Chuchmuch Family
Sarah Jane Green, David Green/ Jon & Ann Green
Jane & Bob Green, Ellie & Jud Wyatt/ Jon & Ann Green
Mike Martin, Jaimie Gaines, and Susan Denbow/ The Manicom Family
John Thompson/ Kate & John Weimar
Rebecca Marley/ Titi Marley
Les & Betty Moss/ Mark & Leslie Moore
Bob & Billie/ Mark & Leslie Moore
Bob & Mary Stageberg/ Scott & Jan Johnston
Susie Keeton/ Scott & Jan Johnston
Dan & Helen Johnston/ Scott & Jan Johnston
Barbara Williams/ Carl & Adele Yung
Delores & Joseph Crittell/ Carl & Adele Yung
Arthur Bessenbach/ Angela Kinsey
Our Parents/ Guy & Susan Hollingsworth
Kurban Sholanov/ Dauren Sholanov
Taft & Nancy Bradshaw/ Matt & Natalie Bradshaw

In Honor of:

Rachel, Kevin & Jack Henderson/ Jon & Ann Green
Mary, Jimmie & Wes Ryan/ Jon & Ann Green
Russell & Lindsey Adamson/ William Adamson
Dianna Haskins/ Bailey Patel
Sophie & Denton Hollingsworth/ Guy & Susan Hollingsworth
Dana Sholandva/ Dauren Sholanov

Other:

Delores Morris
Leslie Harder