



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

Grace is the seed of glory, the dawning of glory in the heart, and therefore, grace is the earnest of the future inheritance.

— Jonathan Edwards

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.

— Anne Lamott

+ 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, April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

10:30 am

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Romans 11:33-36

Minister: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

ALL: Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

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

Song of Praise

Praise To The Lord The Almighty

Catherine Winkworth and Joachim Neander

Praise to the Lord the Almighty
The King of creation
O my soul praise Him
For He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who o'er all things
So wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings
Yea so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper
Thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Prayer of Adoration

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Q. 1

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of

my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Song of Adoration

O Church Arise

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

O church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is Love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

So Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

Renewal

Call to Renewal

2 Cor. 5:15

And he [Jesus] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

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

Words of Encouragement

Acts 13:38

Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

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 x2)

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

_____ *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

Jonah 2:1-10

2:1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. 2 He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.

3 You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;
all your waves and breakers
swept over me.

4 I said, ‘I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.’

5 The engulfing waters threatened me,
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

6 To the roots of the mountains I sank down;
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, LORD my God,
brought my life up from the pit.

7 “When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, LORD,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

8 “Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God’s love for them.

9 But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’”

10 And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Minister: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God!

DIVINE TRANSPORT
JONAH

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

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.

Benediction²

Galatians 6:18

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. 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

Brent Allmon, sax
Kate Allmon, sax
Fang Daniels, cello

Rae Moses, Piano
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 March: \$106,768

\$297,881: Jan. - March 2024 General Fund Budget

\$228,148: Jan. - March 2024 Actual General Fund Income

(\$69,733): 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 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: Easter Sunday begins a fifty-day season of renewal known as Eastertide. This season is marked by white banners that will hang in the sanctuary until the Day of Pentecost.

The banner on the left is a reproduction of one found in ancient catacombs. The white background represents newness, freshness, and purity; the red of the cross symbolizes the work that Jesus did on our behalf. It is complemented with the first and last letters of the Greek name for Jesus (IC), the first and last letters of the Greek word for Christ (XC), and the Greek word for Conqueror (NIKA). The short bars above the letters indicate that they are abbreviations.

On the right, the circle of the Celtic Cross is a symbol of eternity as well but emphasizing the endlessness of God's love as shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.