



**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*

*Mark Moore*

*Damon Webster*

*Andy Yung*

**Diaconal Ministry Team**

*Byron Bevers*

*Matt Bradshaw*

*Ann Green*

*Mark Hill*

*Scott Johnston*

*Bev Moncla*

*Mike Ryan*

*Joe Tison*

*Sunny Yung*

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

## Reflections

"The chosen people are chosen for the sake of the world... the Church does not exist for itself, it exists for the sake of fulfilling God's purpose for the world."

—Michael W. Goheen

The Gospels teach us how to read the OT, and - at the same time - the OT teaches us how to read the Gospels. Or, to put it a little differently, we learn to read the OT by reading backwards from the Gospels, and - at the same time - we learn how to read the Gospels by reading forwards from the OT.

—Richard B. Hays

First, God made Abraham a promise... Secondly, Abraham believed God. Despite the inherent improbability of the promise, from the human point of view, Abraham cast himself on the faithfulness of God. Thirdly, Abraham's faith was reckoned as righteousness. That is, he was himself accepted as righteous, by faith. He was not justified because he had done anything to deserve it, or because he had been circumcised, or because he had kept the law (for neither circumcision nor the law had yet been given), but simply because he believed God.

—John R. W. Stott

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

### **Pentecost**

Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (Lev. 23:15-21; Deut. 16:16). Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send "another counselor" (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit's power is available for its mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel. The traditional color for Pentecost is red, after the flames described in Acts 2:3.

# Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day, August 17, 2025

10:30 am

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

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

\_\_\_\_\_ *Praise* \_\_\_\_\_

## Call to Worship

from **Psalm 27; John 4:23**

Minister: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

*People: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives.*

Minister: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.

*People: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the LORD.*

Minister: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

*People: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths as we worship you.*

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

## Song of Praise

## *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*Frederick Hedge and Martin Luther*

A mighty fortress is our God  
A bulwark never failing  
Our helper He amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and pow'r are great  
And armed with cruel hate  
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide  
Our striving would be losing  
Were not the right Man on our side  
The Man of God's own choosing  
Dost ask who that may be  
Christ Jesus it is He  
Lord Sabaoth His name  
From age to age the same  
And He must win the battle

That word above all earthly pow'rs  
No thanks to them abideth  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Thru Him who with us sideth  
Let goods and kindred go  
This mortal life also  
The body they may kill  
God's truth abideth still  
His kingdom is forever

## Prayer of Adoration

## Confession of Faith

## *Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic<sup>2</sup> church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places.

## Song of Adoration

## *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)

## Call to Renewal

**Hebrews 4:12-13**

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

## Confession of Sin

*Minister*

*& People:*

*O God, we confess that we have fled when you have sought, we have stopped our ears when you spoke, we have forgotten the good you bring, and we have despised your correction. Yet, in our lostness, you have sent Christ to help us, he is our mediator, our redeemer, whose blood is our peace, whose righteousness is our strength, whose condemnation is our freedom, whose Spirit is our power, and whose heaven is our heritage. Grant us the strength of your grace to subdue that within us that must be changed, in loosing us from those things that would bind, supporting us in trials, near us in temptation, cleansing our consciences of offense before you and others. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

## Private Confession and Reflection

## Words of Encouragement

**Romans 10:9-13**

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

## Sacrament of Baptism

William Turner McDuffee

## Song of Baptism

*The Blessing*

Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, and Steven Furtick

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you.  
And give you peace, and give you peace,  
And give you peace forever.

The Lord be gracious to you.  
The Lord turn His face towards you.  
And give you peace, and give you peace,  
And give you peace forever.

## Song of Thanksgiving

*Lord I Need You*

Jesse Reeves, Matt Maher, Christy Nockels, and Daniel Carson

Lord I come I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus:

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me (chorus)

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay (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 (10:30 service only).*

## 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.

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”

2 But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

7 He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

8 But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

9 So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. 11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

Minister: This is the Word of the LORD.

*People: Thanks be to God!*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Jaime Jimenez**

THE LORD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM  
STORIES OF GRACE

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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:

*Before the Throne of God Above*

Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea.  
A great High Priest whose name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands,  
My name is written on his heart.  
I know that while in heaven He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the wrong within,  
Upward I look and see him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on him and pardon me,  
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,  
My perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
The King of glory and of grace,  
One with Himself I cannot die.  
My soul is purchased by His blood,  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Savior and my God,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

## **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**

*Oh How Good It Is*

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

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 (repeat)

## **Benediction<sup>3</sup>**

**Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>3</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.

## 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

Joe Beam, percussion  
Daniel Campbell, piano  
Fang Daniels, cello

Jennifer Reddick flute  
Stephanie Taylor, vocals  
Tim Taylor, guitar & 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.

### 2025

July GF Budget	\$100,000	
Actual July GF Receipts	\$60,752	
Variance	(\$39,248)	*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](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:** One of the three great festivals of the Christian year (along with Easter Day & Christmas Day), the Day of Pentecost, symbolized by the color red, celebrates the event of the Risen and Ascended Christ's pouring out his Holy Spirit upon his gathered followers, empowering them for the mission of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus to all the nations. The banner on the right is the traditional representation of the Holy Spirit as a dove.

The banner on the left represents the recreation of our fragmented world through the power of the cross. Pentecost is a day to celebrate hope, a hope evoked by the knowledge that God through His Holy Spirit is at work among His people. It is a celebration of newness, of recreation, of renewal of purpose, mission, and calling as God's people. It is a celebration of God's ongoing work in the world.



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