



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

I bear the dungeon within me; within me is winter, ice, and despair; I have darkness in my soul.

– Victor Hugo

If you believe what you like in the gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.

– Saint Augustine

Seek not to grow in knowledge chiefly for the sake of applause, and to enable you to dispute with others; but seek it for the benefit of your souls, and in order to practice

– Jonathan Edwards

+ 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, October 20, 2024

10:30 am

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Psalm 28:6-9

Minister: Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

People: *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.*

Minister: The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

All: *Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.*

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

Song of Praise

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson & John Wyeth

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by Thy great help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Prayer of Adoration

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Q. 36

Minister: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

People: The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Song of Adoration

On Jordan's Stormy Banks
Christopher Miner and Samuel Stennett

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

Chorus: We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound for promised land,
We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound (We are bound)
We are bound for promised land.

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest? (chorus)

Call to Renewal

1 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!

Confession of Sin

Minister

& People:

Gracious God, You are the God who speaks and acts. You created us and your world, you redeemed your people, and you command us to obey your Word which leads to blessing and wholeness. But we have ignored, neglected, forgotten, and despised your Word. We seek truth and life in places apart from you. We hear your call to us to be doers of your Word, and we admit that we have failed to honor you. We feed our desires and lusts and seek to make our lives easier at every turn. Forgive us for our failures to love you, to love our neighbors, and for our self-righteousness and outright rebellion against you. Stir our dull hearts and energize our apathetic spirits. Give us a fresh enthusiasm for your Word, a fresh desire to obey you, and a renewed Spirit of humility, grace, and mercy. Motivate us, by your Spirit, to strive towards holiness with every fiber of our being, while comforting us with what is already ours in Christ and the assurance that you will complete the good work you have begun in us. We pray this in Jesus' name.

Private Confession and Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: Because of the love of God the Father, in Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are forgiven.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Song of Thanksgiving

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!
Though the darkness hide thee
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy:
There is none beside thee
Perfect in power,
In love and purity.

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: May 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 3:22-36

After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. 23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) 25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less."

31 The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. 33 Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. 34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Minister: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Pastor Brad Wright

He Becomes Greater
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

In Christ Alone
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

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

In Christ Alone
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Benediction²

Hebrews 13: 20-21

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be 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.

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

Joe Beam, percussionist
Fang Daniels, cello
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute
Stephanie Taylor, 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 September: \$116,526

\$893,644: Jan. - Sept. 2024 General Fund Budget

\$850,733: Jan. - Sept. 2024 Actual General Fund Income

(\$42,911): 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: The banners hanging today are textile renderings of watercolor originals by Kirsten Malcolm Berry. The banner on the left is her interpretation of Matthew 28:19 ("Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"). The one on the right depicts 2 Corinthians 5:18 ("All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"). Each piece includes the Greek text. The works are mounted on a background of blue, a color of hope and promise. The designs were reproduced with the artist's permission. You can view more of Ms. Berry's work at www.kirstenmalcolmberry.com.

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