

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 16, 2007

8:45 a.m.



GATHERING PRAISE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE & JOY

Ray and Carol Haley, Mark and Margie Gray, Elaina and David Gray

Leader: We have lit the candles of Hope and Peace and in the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

People: Joy to the world!

Leader: Joy is not a feeling in response to a fortunate event. That is happiness; and it fades away as quickly as the happy situation passes. Joy is a condition of the spirit; a gift from God who rejoices over us with gladness.

People: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

All: O God, with all of heaven and nature we sing your praises. With fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, we repeat the sounding joy with which you have flooded our very beings. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Joy of Heaven, Amen.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

BOWING BEFORE GOD IN 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON

“Are You the One?”

CELEBRATION SONG

BLESSING

DEPARTING IN FAITH AND HOPE

All songs projected by permission: CCLI # 945944

Today we use *The Presbyterian Hymnal (blue)*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CHIMES

The Congregation Stands

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #40 (stanzas 1, 2, & 3)

ANTIOCH

Joy to the World!

CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Psalm 146*)

Leader: We will praise the LORD as long as we live;

People: We will sing praises to our God all our lives long!

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

People: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever.

Leader: The LORD will reign forever,

All: Your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

GLORIA #579

GREATOREX

The Congregation is Seated

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE, PEACE & JOY

June Kuykendall, Virginia Martin and Miree Pomeroy

Lighting of the Candles of Hope and Peace

Leader: We have lit the candles of Hope and Peace and in the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

People: Joy to the world!

Leader: Joy is not a feeling in response to a fortunate event. That is happiness; and it fades away as quickly as the happy situation passes. Joy is a condition of the spirit; a gift from God who rejoices over us with gladness.

People: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

All: O God, with all of heaven and nature we sing your praises. With fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, we repeat the sounding joy with which you have flooded our very beings. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Joy of Heaven, Amen.

*Choir: Come festively sing while awaiting the birth,
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed Redeemer, when our lives are going well we proudly proclaim our faith; but, when the darkness closes in and fears press in on every side, we question you and ask,

People: Are you the One?

Leader: Holy Lord, we believe, but disappointments and despair often give voice to our unbelief and we ask,

People: Are you the One?

Leader: Forgive us, O God, and help us to see the blind receiving their sight, the lame walking and the lepers being cleansed.

People: Forgive us, O Lord Christ, and help us to see your works of transformation that are all around us.

A Time for Silent Prayers of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Joy to the world the Lord is come! The deserts of our lives
bloom with glorious possibilities
So, hear, believe and live the Good News, in Jesus Christ
you are forgiven.

All: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The Congregation Stands

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #40 (stanza 4)

CANONBURY

Joy to the World!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the joy of the Lord be always with you all!

People: And also with you.

(The people greet fellow worshippers with the peace of Christ)

The Congregation is Seated

GATHERING HYMN #304 (stanza 1)

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus Loves Me!

CHILDREN IN THE CHANCEL

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Luke 1:46-55

ANTHEM

Mary's Magnificat

Andrew Carter

Karen Guerini, Soprano

Softly a light is stealing, Sweetly a maiden sings, ever wakeful, ever wistful,
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour

Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings;

'I will love you, I will serve you. May my lullaby glorify, magnify my King of kings.

Lullaby

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON

"Are You the One?"

The Congregation Stands

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (traditional, hymnal, p. 14)

The Congregation is Seated

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer (...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us)

Musical Amen

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory Sentence

Offertory

African Noel

Kenyan Folksong

Arranged by Patrick Liebergen

Rise up! Sing we noel, everybody! He is born in the manger hay.
Rise up! Sing we noel, everybody! Lift your voice with a song today.
Noel! All sing we noel! He is born!
Praise the mighty King! Hear the carols ring!
Sing we noel today. Sing we noel.
Sing alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of Dedication

RECESSIONAL HYMN # 13

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the Way

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WELCOME VISITORS: In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to worship today. Please sign the friendship pad during the announcements so that we may have a record of your presence today.

SALT SHAKER DINNERS: Don't forget to sign up for these dinners. We enjoy wonderful food and great fellowship. Deadline is December 30.

FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE: The exterior doors of the main building will be re-keyed to match the exterior doors of the new addition shortly after January 1. The Committee is presently in the process of issuing new keys to the Elders, Church Staff, School personnel, and designated Church committee members. If you are not one of the above listed groups and would like to have a key, please leave a note in the Property Committee box located in the Church office. To offset the cost of obtaining duplicate keys, there will be a small fee charged for the new keys. This fee will be waived if you have Church duties that require you to have entry to the buildings. Present key holders are advised to retain their old keys since it provides access to several other areas in the building.

A REMINDER ABOUT FINANCES: 2007 is quickly drawing to a close. If you made a monetary pledge to the church's general fund for the current year, please make every effort to pay your pledge in full by the end of December. Also, for those who made a pledge to the Building Fund 3 years ago, please remember that 2007 is the final year to complete payment of these pledges. This is a very critical time for church finances as we close out 2007 and seek to begin 2008 on as strong a financial base as possible. Grace Presbyterian Church greatly appreciates all of you who so faithfully support the church's ministry with your giving.

RAP SESSION - Maybe GIFT WRAP SESSION - please join us December 21st at 10:00 a.m. for preparing our Christmas baskets. Bring wrapping paper, scissors and tape. We will wrap the gifts we received in July and prepare the food baskets. Pizza will be served. Sara Lawson 867-3431.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS DEC 16 THROUGH DEC 23, 2007

Sunday, December 16, 2007

8:45 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Traditional Worship
3:00 pm Youth Caroling
5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 17, 2007

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

1:00 pm Prayer Group

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

6:30 pm Youth Bible Study
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday, December 21, 2007

10:00 am Christmas Basket /Toy
Wrap in Sanctuary

Sunday, December 23, 2007

8:45 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Traditional Worship
5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Our Church Family:

Linda Perry	hospitalized, Tipton Baptist Hospital
John Gordon	recovering at home
Frances Young	Memphis Jewish Home

The Church mourns the loss of member James Krech who died December 3, 2007. Keep the family in your prayers.

Our Extended Church Family:

Mike Russell	cancerous tumor on spine
Joe Gonzales, Daniel Hicks granddad	cancer
Paul Cave, Dan and Georgie Cave's brother	cancer treatment
Mike Kuykendall, son of June Kuykendall	brain tumor
The family of Trudie Pope, friend of the Jackson's	

Worship Attendance for December 09, 2007

8:45 29
11:15 92
Total 121

IN SERVICE THIS WEEK December 16, 2007

Oversight Elders: Opening – Byron Graves, Closing – John Gordon
Hosts: Joan Tinnen, June Kuykendall, Hugh Bishop, Dossett Foster

IN SERVICE NEXT WEEK December 23, 2007

Oversight Elders: Opening – Catherine Harris, Closing John Price
Hosts 11:15 a.m.: Joan Tinnen, Ken Hathaway, Mildred and Earl Culverhouse

December 24, 2007 – Christmas Eve Service:

Communion: Cristaldawn Perry, Ken Hathaway, Ted Upshaw

THE SESSION (Our governing body)

<u>Class of 2008</u>	<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>
Dossett Foster, Session Clerk	Cathy Bendall	Bill Carroll
John Gordon	Joe Bishop	John Evans
Cathy Harris	Byron Graves	Mark Gray
Charlotte Hicks	Sandy Kehrli	Jean Markham
Sarah Pfaffenroth	Miree Pomeroy	Walt Schrimper
Jere Lewis	John Price	Jean Starnes

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Judith Reese – jreese@grace-pres.org

Cell phone (901) 233-7813

Director of Music: Charlotte Eaheart Hicks, CCM – chicks@grace-pres.org

Director of Instrumental Music: Bob Vawter – bvawter@bellsouth.net

Youth Director: Cristaldawn Perry – revmission2002@yahoo.com

Children's Director: Betsy Bogen – bbogen8960@comcast.net

Organist: Jean Jones – jjones8960@comcast.net

Nursery Attendants: Kathe Walker and Judy Thigpun

Church Administrator: Betsy Lewis – blewis@grace-pres.org

Grace Presbyterian Church
6671 Yale Road
Bartlett, TN 38134
Phone: 901-386-3241
Fax: 901-507-4779