

CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2024

Akwi Lillian Aseh
Susie Hayes

Class of 2025

Jere Lawson
John Price
Matthew Smith

Moderator: John Michael Krech
Clerk: Becky Stirling
Treasurer: Jere Lawson

Class of 2026

Sandy Kehrli
AZ Ndingwan
Becky Stirling

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	John Michael Krech, jmkrech@yahoo.com
Organist/Choirmaster	Susan Steppe, susansteppe@comcast.net
Director Tech. Services/Instrumental Music	Bob Vawter, bvawter@bellsouth.net
Director of Children & Youth Ministry	Cristaldawn Smith, revmiss2002@yahoo.com
Nursery Attendants	Kathe Walker & Judy Thigpun
Financial Administrator/Admin Asst.	Betsy Lewis, eaclewis@yahoo.com
Sexton	Scott Hunter
Director of Grace Pres. Child Care	Jill Bailey, childcare@grace-pres.org

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Please consider Grace Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.



Grace Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA),
Presbytery of the Mid-South, Synod of Living Waters.

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

The Strife Is O'er (Victory)

Giovanni Palestrina, 1591
arr. Don Hustad (1918-2013)

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 118

The Day of Resurrection

Lancashire

Easter Greeting

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)

O God, form the minds of your people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

An Affirmation of Faith for Easter

Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

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

Unison: **That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death,**

not to myself, but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,

who at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins

and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;

that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven

not a hair can fall from my head.

Indeed, everything must fit his purpose for my salvation.

Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life

and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers safely greet one another with the peace of Christ and then sit for the announcements.)

Welcome and Announcements

The children bring their ringing offering and come to the **Baptismal Font** for a **Time for Young Christians**

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

Unison

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him indeed shall all who sleep in the earth bow down.

Before him shall bow down all who go down to the dust.
And I shall live for him.

Posterity shall serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that God has done it.

Anthem

Love One Another, with Love Round

Love, Christians, is your call. Love your neighbor as yourself, for God loves all. As I have loved you, love one another. This is my new commandment; by this shall all know you are my disciples, if you love one another. The Son of Man has been glorified. God has been glorified in the Son. Now I must leave you with this final commandment. God loves us all.
(Love One Another, Luacine Clark Fox (1914-2002); Love Round, unknown; arr. Susan Steppe)

Epistle

1 John 4:7-21

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 385 O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face Song 1

The congregation sits.

Gospel

John 15:1-8

Sermon

Entanglements

Mike Krech

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

John 15:5a

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 418 God Bless Your Church with Strength! Diademata

This hymn text at 418 is sung to the suggested alternate tune Diademata,
best known as the tune to Crown Him with Many Crowns

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria for Easter Season Refrain of Hymn 122 Judas Maccabeus

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son.

Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Lord, I Want to Be a Christian African-American Spiritual
arr. Mary McDonald

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology for Easter Season (to the tune of Hymn 455) Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Benediction

Hymn 111 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing Gelobt Sei Gott

The congregation is encouraged to be seated for the postlude,
or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and quickly now if necessary.

Postlude They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Peter Scholtes (1938-2009) arr. Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the fifth Sunday in Easter season, the Great Fifty Days of Easter from Easter Day to Pentecost (March 31 – May 19, 2024), as we celebrate the resurrection victory in worship through hymns, the Gloria and Doxology for the season, and an affirmation of faith in place of a prayer of confession. It has long been customary to omit confession of sin during the Easter season as an expression of the absolute victory over sin won for us by the Risen Lord. Another practice in Easter season is the first lesson from the Book of Acts. This fifth book of the New Testament, written by Luke, author of the third Gospel, records the spread of faith in the Risen Christ. (JMK)

Hymn Texts for Online Worship

The Day of Resurrection

The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, From this world to the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over With hymns of victory.
Our hearts be pure from evil, That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light;
And, listening to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.
Now let the heavens be joyful, Let earth the song begin.
Let the round world keep triumph, And all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that hath no end.

Text: John of Damascus, c.675-749; Trans. John Mason Neale, 1862;
Tune: LANCASHIRE; Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835

O God, We Bear the Imprint of Your Face

O God, we bear the imprint of Your face: The colors of our skin are Your design,
And what we have of beauty in our race As man or woman, You alone define,
Who stretched a living fabric on our frame And gave to each a language and a name.
Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate Because our race, our skin is not the same
While we are judged unequal by the state
And victims made because we own our name,
Humanity reduced to little worth, Dishonored is Your living face on earth.
O God, we share the image of Your Son Whose flesh and blood are ours,
whatever skin, In His humanity we find our own, And in His family our proper kin:
Christ is the brother we still crucify, His love the language we must learn, or die.

Text: Shirley Elena Murray, 1987;
Tune: SONG 1; Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625);
Harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, as in *The English Hymnal*, 1906

God Bless Your Church with Strength!

God bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
Upbuild Your servants as we work In common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith To venture and to soar
Through open skies to sing the praise Of Christ whom we adore.

God, bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,
Unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, Abundantly alive.
From You, one holy vine, In freedom may we grow;
Sustain us in our mission, Lord, Your love and peace to show.

God, bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
May we in chaos shine to light A pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim, And kindness ours to share,
In humbleness O may we walk, Assured our God is there!

Text: John A. Dalles, 1984;

Tune: DIADEMATA, George Job Elvey, 1868

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;
Let every tongue rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1931, alt;

Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT; Melchior Vulpius, 1609; as in *Pilgrim Hymnal*, 1958