



*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

Kyle Bobos
*Assistant Pastor
Children's Ministries*

Caleb McDuffee
Student Ministries

Elders
*Brent Allmon
Dan Brink
Jon Green
Rob McIntosh
Mark Moore
Andy Yung*

Deacons
*Matt Bradshaw
Mike Bellin
Rhonnie Bellin
Jeff Cranford
Mark Hill
Scott Johnston
Mike Ryan
Joe Tison
Sunny Yung*

Reflections

God is a peacemaker. Jesus Christ is a peacemaker. So, if we want to be God's children and Christ's disciples, we must be peacemakers too.

— John R.W. Stott
Decisive Issues Facing Christians Today

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

— a prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

Grace Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday in Eastertide

April 26, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

based on **1 Peter 1:3-5**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

People: He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

Song of Praise

Come People of the Risen King
Stuart Townend

Come peo - ple of the Ris - en King, who de - light to bring Him
 Come those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing through the
 Come young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wom - en of the

praise; Come all, and tune your hearts to sing to the Morn - ing Star of
 night; Come those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the
 faith; Come those with full or emp - ty hands find the rich - es of His

grace. From the shift - ing shad - ows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to
 fight. For His per - fect love will nev - er change, and His mer - cies nev - er
 grace. O - ver all the world, His peo - ple sing shore to shore we hear them

Him, where stead - y arms of mer - cy reach, to gath - er chil - dren
 cease, but fol - low us through all our days, with the cer - tain hope of
 call the truth that cries through ev - 'ry age, "Our God is all in

in. Re - joice, re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re -
 peace. all."

joyce! One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, re - joice!

Prayer of Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:8-9

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

O Gracious God, we come before you as people who desperately need to see you with clear eyes. We need to take in your glory and feel our smallness; we need to gaze upon your holiness and feel our sinfulness; we need to see Jesus' humble self-offering at the cross and feel how truly loved we are. Father, as we gaze upon your beauty, help us to see how unlike you we really are. We eagerly repay evil to those who have done evil to us, and we look down on and mock those who look down on or mock us. When we are unable to lash out effectively at those who have caused us pain, we feel frustrated and angry. But you have loved us while we hated you; you spoke words of peace to us while we used your name as a curse; you have richly blessed us, even as we continue to look anywhere and everywhere else for our blessings. Holy Spirit, help us to live lives that are truly a blessing to those around us. Thank you that your declaration of blessing upon us is sure and unshakeable, rooted and grounded in your unchanging and eternal character and Jesus' finished work on the cross for us.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Peace of God

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you!

People: *And also with you.*

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 for ever. Amen!

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

Genesis 43:1-34

Now the famine was still severe in the land. 2 So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little more food."

3 But Judah said to him, "The man warned us solemnly, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.' 4 If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you. 5 But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'"

6 Israel asked, "Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man you had another brother?"

7 They replied, "The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. 'Is your father still living?' he asked us. 'Do you have another brother?' We simply answered his questions. How were we to know he would say, 'Bring your brother down here?'"

8 Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die. 9 I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life. 10 As it is, if we had not delayed, we could have gone and returned twice."

11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift—a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds. 12 Take double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake. 13 Take your brother also and go back to the man at once. 14 And may God Almighty[a] grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved."

15 So the men took the gifts and double the amount of silver, and Benjamin also. They hurried down to Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph. 16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he

said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare a meal; they are to eat with me at noon."

17 The man did as Joseph told him and took the men to Joseph's house. 18 Now the men were frightened when they were taken to his house. They thought, "We were brought here because of the silver that was put back into our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us and seize us as slaves and take our donkeys."

19 So they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house. 20 "We beg your pardon, our lord," they said, "we came down here the first time to buy food. 21 But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver—the exact weight—in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us. 22 We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks."

23 "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

24 The steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys. 25 They prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon, because they had heard that they were to eat there.

26 When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground. 27 He asked them how they were, and then he said, "How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?"

28 They replied, "Your servant our father is still alive and well." And they bowed down, prostrating themselves before him.

29 As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." 30 Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.

31 After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, "Serve the food."

32 They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, for that is detestable to Egyptians. 33 The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at each other in astonishment. 34 When portions were served to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as much as anyone else's. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

Sermon

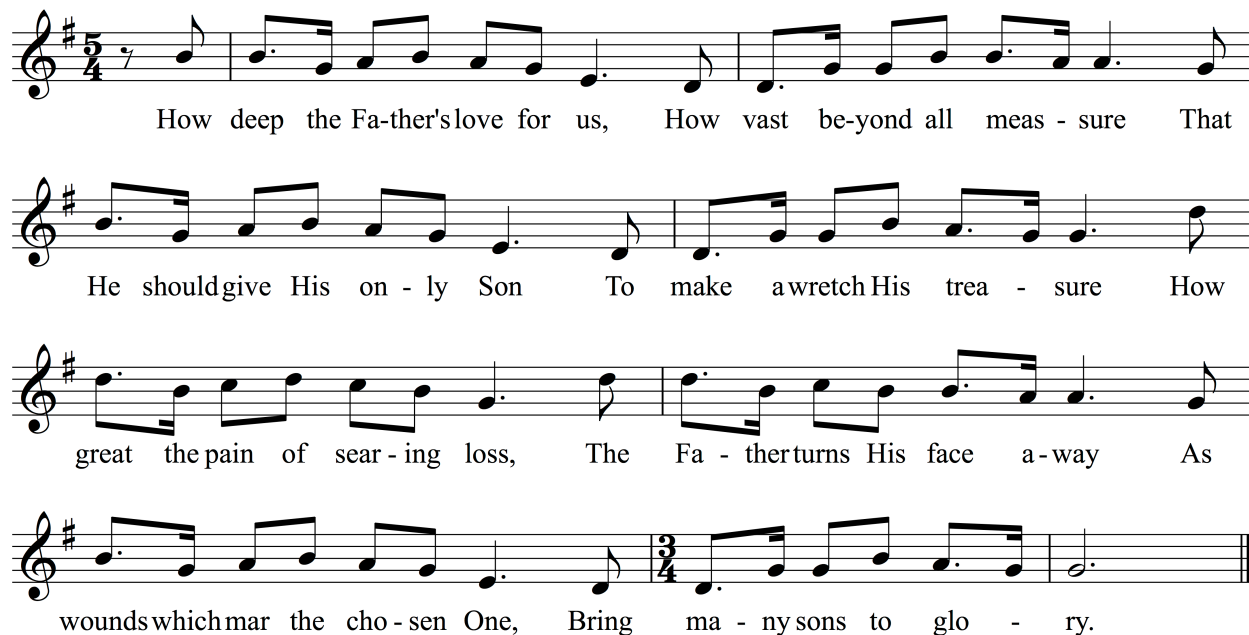
Mr. Brad Wright

PERVASIVE PEACE
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOSEPH

Song of Commitment

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend



How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, How vast be-yond all meas - sure That
He should give His on - ly Son To make a wretch His trea - sure How
great the pain of sear - ing loss, The Fa - ther turns His face a - way As
wounds which mar the cho - sen One, Bring ma - ny sons to glo - ry.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward,
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Benediction²

Ephesians 6:23-24

Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

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!

²The 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.

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 Music³

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Brent Allmon, saxophone
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Herrichs, guitar

Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute

³All songs except hymns are copied under CCL # 1214497. The hymns are reprinted from *Trinity Hymnal* (© 1990, Great Commission Publications). Used by permission. All Scripture is quoted from, unless otherwise indicated, the *THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION*®, *NIV*® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by *Biblica, Inc.*™ Used by permission

If you are not receiving Kyle's weekly emails, please contact Dianna in the church office to update your contact information at 281-296-0911 or admin@gracewoodlands.org.

Note from the Diaconate: There are many members of Grace that would be glad to help run errands of picking up prescriptions, medications, or groceries for you should you be concerned about getting out into public. Please let us know if you are in need of anything. Email us at deacons@gracewoodlands.org

Student Ministries is designed for students 7th grade through 12th grade. Have your student connect with us on Instagram (called GPCyouth) or ask to be put in our Youth group GroupMe, our primary medium for communication to hear about upcoming youth group events!

- **Youth Group will be held through Zoom until further notice.** Contact Caleb or look on our Instagram or GroupMe for information on how to join. Contact with Caleb at caleb@gracewoodlands.org.
- **Save the Dates** for summer youth trips.
 - Due to the impact of COVID-19, our Sr. High trip to the RUSH Conference in Atlanta will be pushed back until next summer. Instead, we plan on registering for an RYM Sr. High trip. Further information to come. ***Jr. High- June 1-5 (RYM, Texas)** - (yes, this is VBS week as well) ***Sr. High- TBD**

GraceCares: Caring for the church and the community. If you are interested in helping with GraceCares and the needs of the church and the community, please contact Joe Tison.

- **Meals Ministry:** There are events in life when we all need the help and encouragement from our community. The Meals Ministry seeks to enter into these times by providing meals. If you are in need of meals, or would like to help provide meals, please contact Rhonnie Bellin.
- **Giving:** If you would like to know the best way to support those who might have needs in our church and community, we would encourage you to consider giving to the Deacon's Fund. It is through the deacons and their ministry that Grace church provides for, supports and comes alongside those who are in need. If you have questions, please contact Matt Bradshaw.
- **Prayer Ministry:** Our desire at Grace is that we take seriously the privilege of prayer and there are several ways you can participate. If you become aware of a prayer need, please communicate this to us in one of the following ways:
 - **By phone:** 281-296-0911 (Church Office)

Your requests will be communicated to our Church Staff, Officers, and our Prayer Team. If you would like to be on our Prayer Team, please let us know.

Missions Service Opportunities & Events: Contact John Zeigler for more information or to be added to our GraceMissions email list or to connect with a missions team advocate.

- **April Prayer Partners**
 - Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez, RUF, Rice University
 - Linda Martinez, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut, Lebanon
- **Local Missions Partners**
 - Cornerstone of Houston Team Counseling | The Woodlands, TX
 - Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
 - Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
 - Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
 - Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
 - Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX
 - Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX
 - Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University
 - Brooks & Meredith Harwood | RUF | University of Houston
 - Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry
 - Grace Presbyterian Diaconate
- **National Missions Partners**
 - Robbie & Kelly Mills | New City Fellowship Dallas | Dallas, TX
 - Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University

- William & Katherine Bondurant | RUF | Texas A & M University
- Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
- Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University
- John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
- Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio
- Francis A. Schaeffer Institute, Covenant Theological Seminary | St. Louis, MO
- Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX
- **International Missions Partners**
 - Arab Baptist Theological Seminary / Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development | Beirut, Lebanon
 - Titus & Crystal Bagby | RUF International | Texas A & M University
 - Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra | RUF International | University of Texas
 - Charles & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico
 - Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Yokkaichi, Japan
 - Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia
 - David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany
 - Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe
 - Mission to The World | Atlanta, GA
 - Krystal Watson | Pioneers | Eastern Europe

Grace Online gives users access to the church directory and event calendar. Users can also join groups, print giving statements and give online. If you need any online instructions contact Dianna in the office at 281-296-0911 or admin@gracewoodlands.org.

- **Website:** Grace Online directory link, gracewoodlands.org under the Connect tab.
- **Mobile App (Elexio Community)** can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. To log on, replace "Domain" with gracewoodlands and use your directory username and password for the app.

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for March 2020.

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Projected Budget	70,999	212,997
Actual General Fund	60,152	170,953
Variance	(10,847)	(42,044)

Online Giving: To give online, go to <https://www.elexiogiving.com/App/Giving/grac8989200>. This link can also be found on the Grace Website at gracewoodlands.org under the Care/Give tab. Please contact Dianna in the church office with questions or concerns.

Prayer of Belief...

Lord Jesus Christ, 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 hope.

I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, bearing my punishment and offering forgiveness.

Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen