



*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

The voice of condemnation comes from Satan, not from God. Yes, your sin is great and deep, and it matters. It is greater and deeper than you can conceive, so great that nothing less than the death of the perfect Son of God could possibly pay for it. But through his death, the penalty is fully and finally paid. He stood condemned in your place and was executed for this particular sin of yours. So why do you keep trying to take back the place of condemnation that Jesus has taken for you? If God does not condemn you, why continue constantly to condemn yourself? Don't be slow to believe the good news about Jesus, even though it may seem too good to be true.

— Iain M. Duguid and Matthew P. Harmon
Living in the Light of Inextinguishable Hope

[Reconciliation] is about loyalty to a family member in need, even when he or she looks guilty; giving glory to God by owning up to sin and its consequences; overlooking favoritism; offering up oneself to save another; demonstrating true love by concrete acts of sacrifice that create a context of trust; discarding control and the power of knowledge in favor of intimacy; embracing deep compassion, tender feelings, sensitivity, and forgiveness; and talking to one another. A dysfunctional family that allows these virtues to embrace it will become a light to the world.

— Bruce K. Waltke
Genesis

"The only way you are going to be able to 'forgive yourselves' is to realize that we have a God of grace, whose loving plan you never thwarted. He did it all to save *you*, so clearly you can be forgiven. You have not ruined things. He was working all along. Be at peace." The gracious, sovereign power of God will certainly humble us (since it is sovereign) but also encourage us (because it is gracious). Only this view of God will help us repent, but also help us get over our guilt. A loving God who is not sovereign would only encourage us to sin more; a sovereign God who was not gracious would only make us hate ourselves.

— Tim Keller
Living in a Pluralistic Society

The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and sanctification center, where flawed people place their faith in Christ, gather to know and love him better, and learn to love others as he designed.

— Paul David Tripp
Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Eastertide

May 3, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the good news - the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news - the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news - once we were no people; now we are God's people.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

All: Hallelujah!


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

Song of Praise

Hail to the Lord's Anointed vs. 1, 2, & 4


James Montgomery and Sandra McCracken

Chorus



Hail to the Lord's a - noint-ed great Da - vid's great-er Son! Hail in the
time ap - point ed, His reign on earth be - gun! His reign on earth be - gun!

Verses



1. He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2. He comes with com - fort speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
3. To give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turned to light,
4. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
5. The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;
to take a - way trans - gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty. (vss. 1, 3, 4, 5 to chorus)
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong.
whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in His path to birth.
his name shall stand for - ev - er, that name to us is Love.

Prayer of Adoration

_____Renewal_____

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:8-13

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

Father of mercy, We marvel that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We were rebels and strangers to you, living in opposition to your law, wisdom, and grace, yet you loved us, pursued us, and brought us into your family. You not only forgave our many sins but have lavished us with your love, favor, and care. Such great love should melt our hearts and give us deep love and compassion for those around us. Yet we confess we find it hard to forgive those who have hurt us, and difficult to love those we deem unlovely. We expect others to forgive our sins against them and to extend undeserved love toward us, even though we are slow to do the same. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for the grudges we nurse and memories of past wrongs to which we cling. As you are determined to forget our sins and not hold them against us, so too make us holy forgetters who leave vengeance in your hands and move graciously towards those who have wounded us, whether carelessly or willfully. By your Spirit, enable us to live at peace with the reality of relationships that cannot be reconciled here on earth, remembering that it may take Jesus’ return to make things right. Do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, and give us hearts like yours, upright, compassionate, and humble, devoted to forgiveness and reconciliation.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Ephesians 2:14-22

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit

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 44:1-45:15

Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: "Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack. 2 Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one's sack, along with the silver for his grain." And he did as Joseph said.

3 As morning dawned, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys. 4 They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, "Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid good with evil? 5 Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination? This is a wicked thing you have done.'"

6 When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them. 7 But they said to him, "Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do anything like that! 8 We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house? 9 If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord's slaves."

10 "Very well, then," he said, "let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame."

11 Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. 12 Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. 13 At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

14 Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him. 15 Joseph said to them, "What is this you have done? Don't you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?"

16 “What can we say to my lord?” Judah replied. “What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants’ guilt. We are now my lord’s slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup.”

17 But Joseph said, “Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace.”

18 Then Judah went up to him and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. 19 My lord asked his servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’ 20 And we answered, ‘We have an aged father, and there is a young son born to him in his old age. His brother is dead, and he is the only one of his mother’s sons left, and his father loves him.’

21 “Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me so I can see him for myself.’ 22 And we said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father; if he leaves him, his father will die.’ 23 But you told your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.’ 24 When we went back to your servant my father, we told him what my lord had said.

25 “Then our father said, ‘Go back and buy a little more food.’ 26 But we said, ‘We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go. We cannot see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’

27 “Your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons. 28 One of them went away from me, and I said, “He has surely been torn to pieces.” And I have not seen him since. 29 If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.’

30 “So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father, and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy’s life, 31 sees that the boy isn’t there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow. 32 Your servant guaranteed the boy’s safety to my father. I said, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!’

33 “Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. 34 How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.”

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. 10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

12 “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. 13 Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

RECONCILIATION BEGINS
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOSEPH

Song of Commitment*All Must Be Well**Mary Bowley-Peters and Matthew S. Smith*

1. Through the love of God our Sav - ior, All will be _____ well;
 2. Though we pass through trib - u - la - tion, All will be _____ well;
 3. We ex - pect a bright to - mor - row, All will be _____ well;



Free and change - less is His fav - or, All _____ is _____ well;
 Ours is such a full sal - va - tion, All _____ is _____ well;
 Faith can sing through days of sor - row, All _____ is _____ well;



Pre - cious is the blood that healed us, Per - fect
 Hap - py still in God con - fid - ing, Fruit - ful
 On our Fa - ther's love re - ly - ing, Je - sus



is the grace that sealed us, _____ Strong the hand stretched forth to
 if in Christ a - bid - ing, _____ Stead - fast through the Spir - it's
 ev - 'ry need sup - ply - ing, _____ Yes in liv - ing and in



shield us, All must be _____ well.
 guid - ing, All must be _____ well.
 dy - ing, All must be _____ well.

Benediction²

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

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 Music³

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

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

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

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.

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.

Children's Ministries: Vacation Bible School is postponed until summer 2021.

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 or 713-628-0066.

- **Summer Plans:** Due to the impact of COVID-19, our Sr. High trip to the RUSH Conference in Atlanta will be pushed back until next summer. Additionally, we are also canceling our Jr. High participation at RYM TX. Caleb is working to make plans for retreats later in the summer if possible.

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: Email Barbara Adams or the church office at admin@gracewoodlands.org. 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.

- **May Prayer Partners**
 - Curtis & Marian Castleberry, RUF, UT San Antonio [Andrew Whitla]
 - Kay Burklin, Refugee Liaison, MTW, Europe [Mechele Tison]
- **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
 - Teodoro Contreras & Jorge Rivera, Vida Nueva Church Plant, Valle Lincoln, Monterrey, Mexico

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 that 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