



8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / www.gracewoodlands.org

*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

David J. Wilcher

Lead Pastor

Kyle Bobos

Pastor of Children's Ministries

Todd Crusey

Pastor of Community Life

Grayson Baird

Director of Student Ministries

Elders

Dan Brink

Jon Green

Mike Hume

Mark Moore

Charlton Wimberly

Andy Yung

Deacons

Matt Bradshaw

Mike Bellin

Amy Bottorff

Matt Bottorff

Justin Chandler

Jeff Cranford

Mark Hill

Scott Johnston

Steve Kovach

Rob McIntosh

Mike Ryan

Reflections

Jesus is the mighty warrior who saves you from your self-centered, self-focused, self-justifying life. God delights in you...

– C. John (Jack) Miller
Saving Grace

Realize then, how significant it is that the biblical writers introduce God as “a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows” (Psalm 68:4-5). This is one of the main things He does in the world. He identifies with the powerless. He takes up their cause.

– Tim Keller

The dark night is God’s attack on religion. If you genuinely desire union with the unspeakable love of God, then you must be prepared to have your “religious” world shattered. If you think devotional practices, theological insights, even charitable actions give you some sort of purchase on God, you are still playing games.

– Rowan Williams
A Ray of Darkness

Grace Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

Psalm 18:46, 47, 49

Leader: The Lord lives!

People: Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior!

Leader: He is the God who avenges me,

People: who subdues nations under me, who saves me from my enemies.

*All: Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;
I will sing the praises of your name.*

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

Song of Praise

A Mighty Fortress

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

How Firm a Foundation

Private Adoration and Praise

_____ *Renewal* _____

Scripture Reading

Romans 3:10-12

There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.
All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

Confession of Sin

*Minister
& People:*

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Lamentations 3:22-24

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

Recognition of Graduating Seniors

Song of Thanksgiving

Jesus, Cast a Look

The Peace of God and Announcements

Minister: The peace of the Lord 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.*

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

Exodus 17:8-16

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven."

15 Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. 16 He said, "Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

OUR WARRIOR EXODUS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MOSES

Communion

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion is a 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!

Song of Communion

There is a Fountain

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

Grace Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the outer circle of the tray. Please hold the elements until all have received so we can celebrate this meal together.

Song of Commitment

O Church Arise

Benediction²

Revelation 1:5-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power 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.

Worship Music³

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

Brent Allmon, saxophone
T.J. Darst, bass
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar

David Kang, violin
Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute

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.

³ All 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

————— *Sermon Notes* —————

Exodus 17:8-16

OUR WARRIOR

EXODUS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MOSES

Grace Presbyterian Bulletin Board

Welcome, Guests! We are excited you're here with us today. We hope that you were warmly welcomed and would love for you to be a part of Grace. Please take a moment to fill out the visitor information on the back of the bulletin, tear it off and drop it in the offering plate or give it on to an usher.

Parents of Infants - Three-Yr-Olds: Our nursery and early-childhood classes provide a warm, nurturing, and well-supervised environment. Our workers welcome 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. If you need assistance or have any questions about the Nursery, please contact our Nursery Coordinator, Natalie Webster, at nursery@gracewoodlands.org.

Cry Room: A cry room is available for the comfort of our new parents in order to ensure that everyone enjoys our services. It is located in the back of the sanctuary and it is well equipped (comfortable rockers, changing table, etc.) but if you are in need of anything, one of our ushers will be glad to assist.

Grace Church Mobile App (My Church by Elexio) is available for iPhone and Android and can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. In addition to giving users access to the church directory and events, the mobile app also offers a mobile check-in option for the Nursery. If you have questions, please contact the church office at admin@gracewoodlands.org.

Sunday Mornings at Grace

8:30 am Prayer	10:30 am Worship
9:30 am Christian Education Classes	11:45 am Intercession
10:15 am Coffee Break	

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry: To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. We would like to invite you to be a part of this uprising at 8:30 each Sunday morning in the Prayer Room (114). Join us as we pray for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

Community Groups: To be part of the church is to be part of a community. Community is where we connect, build relationships, study, and serve together. Community Groups consist of 8-15 people meeting regularly in homes, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. to share our lives with one another. If you would like to learn more about Community Groups, please contact Todd Crusey at todd@gracewoodlands.org or use Find a Group in Member login to get connected to a particular group.

GraceLife Lunch-Out Fellowship, Sunday, May 28th: Join us after church on Memorial Day Weekend, for lunch out at Deacon Baldy's. All are invited to this informal fellowship gathering. Deacon Baldy's is a family-friendly open-air food truck park on 1488 with a wide variety of options for food and drinks.

No Sunday Morning Classes NEXT WEEK. Today was the last session for our current six-week series. Thanks to Rob McIntosh, Amy Bottorff and Joy Zeigler for encouraging us all to grow in our faith. Please join us on June 4th as new classes begin!

Children's Ministry:

- **Children's Christian Education** classes are offered for Preschoolers (2-3yrs old), Pre-K and Kindergarten, 1st-2nd Grade, 3rd-4th Grade, and 5th-6th Grade. Classes meet in the Education Building at 9:30 am 2nd Grade and under are on the 1st floor, 3rd Grade and above meet on the 2nd floor.
- **Children's Church** is offered for children ages 4 years old through 2nd grade. During 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 gather in room 108 in the Education Building to sing songs, pray, and hear a children's

sermon. We also collect a children's offering during the service. This format is designed to model worship for our children and teach them the importance of meeting together as the body of Christ.

- **SNiCK and 56ers:** All children, 8 weeks through 6th Grade, are invited to join us on Sunday nights from 5-7 pm. The goal is to have fun at SNiCK through friendship and fellowship. Friends are welcome! Tonight we will close out our year with the 7th Annual SNiCK Mudbowl and 56ers Pool Party. Come prepared with clothes that can get wet and dirty. Invite your friends and neighbors! The 56ers pool party will be at the Brink's home. Both events will be 5-7 pm.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Our Mighty Fortress VBS is scheduled for the week of June 12th-16th. VBS is offered free of charge to children ages 4 years through entering 4th grade. Space is limited and registration is required, so register today through the church website, gracewoodlands.org.
- **VBS Volunteers!** Vacation Bible School is one of our biggest outreach events and we can't do it without your help. We need volunteers to help with Crafts, Music, Storytelling, Games, Snacks, Registration, Decorations, and Preschool VBS. Preschool VBS is for children 3 and under and is only offered to the children of VBS volunteers. If you're interested in helping in any area, please contact Kyle Bobos (kyle@gracewoodlands.org).
- **VBS Needs:** Crafts for VBS are in need of your paper towel and toilet paper rolls! The Decoration team is need of: a mannequin, sandals (old leather, think Birkenstock), old leather belts, set of fireplace tools, and a few copper pots. They will all be returned unharmed after VBS. Thanks!
- **VBS Volunteer Training:** All VBS Volunteers, please come to a VBS Training Session in room 208 after church on June 4th! Lunch and drinks will be provided. Training will cover the theme, schedule, and procedures for this year's VBS. All volunteers for regular and Pre-School VBS should plan to attend. If you haven't been through child-protection training, or it's time to renew your training (every 3 years), plan on staying after the meeting to complete the training.
- **PlayGroup** is an active gathering of moms and dads making space for fun, friendship, and adventure for our young children. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month. To get involved, contact Deborah Kovach or Natalie Webster. Since locations and times can change, please join the PlayGroup in E-Connect for updates. *May 26th-Timarron Park/Splash Pad

Student Ministry:

- **Christian Education:** On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15, we gather to know more deeply about our Lord and Savior and who are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings! Jr. High in room 206 and Sr. High in room 205.
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship):** On Sunday evenings we gather to eat together, laugh together, and to see the person and work of Jesus more clearly in our lives together. Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm and Sr. High meets 7-8:30 pm. **May 21st will be our last SNF of the year.**
- **RYM:** Dates for the Jr. High RYM is June 5th-9th, 2017 (for uprising 7th grade-uprising freshmen) and HS RYM is July 10th-15th (for uprising freshmen-outgoing 12th grade.) Deadlines are drawing close to join for RYM, if you're interested talk to Grayson today.
- **Summer Kick-Off:** On June 4th, we will be meeting at Riva Row Boat House at 3:30 pm. We will paddleboard and kayak and then grill out. Bring \$5 and grab a friend! Hope to see you there!
- **Service Opportunities:**
 - **Tamina Tutoring:** We go to the Tamina Community Center from 3:45-5:00 pm to tutor, play with, and love a great group of kids. We would love if you joined us. May 23rd will be our last day at Tamina before we break for the summer!

Women's Ministry Events and More! Please join the Women's Ministry on E-Connect to get involved.

- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, May 4th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Kristen Power.

Men's Fraternal:

- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Our final meeting for the spring will be at 6:30 am on Tuesday, May 23rd at the Egg & I on Research Forest. Steve Wilmoth is teaching a study on the book of James.

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, June 20th. Join us at Wings N More on 242 for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like.

GraceCares:

- **Autumn Grove:** Just a few minutes drive from Grace, Autumn Grove Cottage, a sixteen resident assisted living home, provides care to men and women with Alzheimer's. A small group from Grace visits roughly once a month for about 30 minutes or so to sing, pray and visit with the residents. Children are always welcome.
- **Meals Ministry:** There are many seasons and events in life when we all need the help and encouragement of our community. The Meals Ministry seeks to enter into these times by providing meals and other means of support. If you are in need of meals, or would like to help provide meals for others, please contact our Meals Coordinator, Rhonnie Bellin at rhonniebellin@aol.com.
- **Serve and Care for Grace Church members and congregation.** If you would like to know the best way to support and help those who might have financial or physical 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:
 - In writing: Fill out the back page of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
 - 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.

- **May Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of May.
 - Rev. Nathan & Mrs. Falon Moretto, New City Presbyterian Church, Detroit, MI
 - Ms. Shannon Dohn, Navigators, Uganda
- **The PCA Global Missions Conference** is coming to Dallas, November 10-12, 2017. God has equipped you with unique gifts for serving the Church. Join us at the PCA Global Missions Conference to discover how you can help expand the reach of the Great Commission. Enlarge your understanding through over 80 seminars led by missions experts from all over the globe. Come early for Welcoming the Refugee, a timely pre-conference (Nov. 9-10) that will lead you to dive deep into this critical global need. For more information or to register with our group, contact Wendy Dempsey.

Local Mission Partners

Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX
 Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
 Cornerstone Recovery | The Woodlands, TX
 Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
 Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
 Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
 Three Local Refugee Pastors: Pastor Thong Lun & Pastor Mang Tiak -Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship, Pastor Bhadra Rai & wife, Ruth -Canaan Bhutanese Church of Houston, Pastor "Andre" Onokoko Shang -International Ministries for the Propagation of the Gospel | Houston, TX
 Blake & Ryan Arnoult | RUF | University of Houston
 Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University
 Ben & Beth Hailey | RUF | Texas A&M University
 Dennis & Jane Hermerding | King's Cross Church | Cypress, TX
 Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, TX
 Curtis & Marian Castleberry | Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX

Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

• **National Mission Partners**

Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University
John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
Michael & Rachel Novak | RUF | Trinity University
Nathan & Falon Moretto | New City Presbyterian Church | Royal Oak, MI
David & Kelly Richter | Christ the King Presbyterian Church | Somerville, MA
Francis A. Schaeffer Institute | Covenant Theological Seminary | Saint Louis, MO
Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) | Atlanta, GA

• **International Mission Partners**

Jason & Sarah Pickard | RUF International | Texas A&M University
Bojan & Julia Dragičević | RUF International | University of Texas
Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Toyosu, Tokyo, Japan
Charlie & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico
Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia
David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany
Arab Baptist Theological Seminary | Beirut, Lebanon
Mission to The World (MTW) | Atlanta, GA

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for April 2017.

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Projected Budget	61,500	246,000
Actual General Fund	88,936	251,591
Variance	27,436	5,591

Banners Explained: Easter Sunday begins a fifty-day season of renewal known as Eastertide. This season is marked by white banners that will hang in the sanctuary until the Day of Pentecost.

The banner on the left is a reproduction of one found in ancient catacombs. The white background represents newness, freshness, and purity; the red of the cross symbolizes the work that Jesus did on our behalf. It is complemented with the first and last letters of the Greek name for Jesus (IC), the first and last letters of the Greek word for Christ (XC), and the Greek word for Conqueror (NIKA). The short bars above the letters indicate that they are abbreviations.

On the right, the circle of the Celtic Cross is a symbol of eternity as well but emphasizing the endlessness of God's love as shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Missed a Recent Sunday Worship? MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at www.gracewoodlands.org under Media. You can listen online, download them or subscribe to the Podcast. If you need help or are having trouble, please contact the church office @ 281-296-0911.

Church Office Information: Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F | Phone: 281.296.0911 | Fax: 281.419.4345
Email: admin@gracewoodlands.org | Website: www.gracewoodlands.org

We are glad to have you as our guest today. Please use this page to let us know of your visit and to make us aware of any ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. You may deposit this page in the offering plate as it comes by, or give it to an usher or greeter. Have confidence that no one will call or drop by your home; this is for us to have a record of your visit or your prayer requests.

Name & Email: _____

Spouse & Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Children & Grade: _____

Please let us know if you are:

- Visitor Regular Attendee One time visit from out of town

I am interested in learning about:

- Community Groups Music Usher, Greeter Sunday Volunteer
 Children's Ministry Women's Ministry Student Ministry Men's Ministry

Prayer Request:

- I would like the prayer team to pray for the following needs or concerns:

- I would like to speak with someone about this prayer request or other spiritual concern; please have someone contact me at: _____.

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.