



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

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

Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Reflections

It is Christ Himself, not the Bible, who is the true word of God. The Bible, read in the right spirit and with the guidance of good teachers, will bring us to Him. We must not use the Bible as a sort of encyclopedia out of which texts can be taken for use as weapons.

– C.S. Lewis

Almost twenty-four years ago I walked into a church in Dublin a Hindu, and walked out a Christian. I had had an unexpected confrontation with the presence of One I discovered to be my Lord, and was set reeling. I knew I needed operating instructions quickly, and particularly wanted to find out who this Jesus was. I hunted up a Bible, a pocket-sized King James with print several microns high, and plunged into the Gospel of Matthew.

I disliked it from the start. Jesus was often abrupt and hard-edged. I disagreed with some of the things he said. I was offended.

But something had happened in my heart. The confrontation in the church had knocked a hole in my ego. I knew at last that I didn't make the world, I didn't know everything, and it was time for me to sit down, shut up, and listen. I kept working my way through the Gospels, and they began working their way through me. There are still parts of the Bible I don't like. But I like the parts I don't like, because I know that's where I need to listen harder.

– Frederica Mathewes-Green
in First Things

The Bible is not a self-help book. The Scriptures present one, consistent, organic message. They tell us how we must seek Christ, who alone is our Savior and source of strength to be and to do what God requires.

– Bryan Chapell
Christ-Centered Preaching

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day

November 5, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Psalm 46:1-7

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

*People: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.*

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

People: God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

Leader: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

All: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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

Song of Praise

Arise, My Soul Arise

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Jesus You Reign Over All

Private Praise and Adoration

_____ *Renewal* _____

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 4:12,13

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Confession of Sin

*Leader &
People:*

Eternal God, you do not change. You have revealed yourself to us in your Word. You call us to worship you in spirit and in truth. But we confess that we often worship not your true self but who we wish you to be. We too often ask you to bless what we do rather than seeking to do what you bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes you into what we want instead of shaping us into what you want. Help us to meet you here, that we might bow before your unspeakable majesty and so live for you now and ever, in Christ.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Psalm 145:13,14

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.
The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

Song of Thanksgiving

Friend of Sinners

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

Matthew 5:17-20

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

JESUS AND THE BIBLE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: GOSPEL EXPECTATIONS

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!

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.

————— *Sermon Notes* —————

Matthew 5:17-20

JESUS AND THE BIBLE

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: GOSPEL EXPECTATIONS

Community Group Questions

1. How do most people view the Bible? Why do they think that way?

2. What are the three points that Jesus is making in verse 18? What is Jesus saying about the source of the Scriptures? What does Jesus have to say about what is important and what is not? What is the reach of the Scriptures? What does Jesus have to say about its authority?

3. What are the hardest parts of the Scriptures? Are we open to the idea that our understanding might be mistaken?

4. How do we read the Scriptures like a Pharisee? How do we have more in common with them than Jesus?

5. What would it mean for us to see all of Scripture, not just parts, as all about him? How does Luke 24 change our approach? How do we make the Scriptures all about us? How is that a cultural not a biblical approach?

6. How do we make spiritual growth about our activity? How is that opposed to Christianity? What are the ways that we have embraced that approach?

7. How do we make spirituality from the outside in instead of the opposite? How would that affect our parenting?

8. How do we react to the emptiness that we experience instead of the fullness that is our in Jesus? How does respond to what Jesus has done differ from our normal response?

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 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.

Sunday Mornings at Grace

8:30 am Prayer

9:30 am Christian Education Classes

10:15 am Coffee Break

10:30 am Worship

11:45 am Intercession

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.

Find & Interact with Members and Online Giving:

- **Grace Online Directory:** The link for member login can be found on the church website under the Connect tab. In addition to accessing the church directory, you can join groups and review your giving history. If you did not receive login instructions or would like to be added to the church directory, contact Dianna in the office at admin@gracewoodlands.org or 281-296-0911.
- **Grace Church Mobile App (Elexio Community 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. To log on, replace "Domain" with [gracewoodlands](http://gracewoodlands.org) and use your directory username and password for the app.
- **Grace Online Giving Portal.** If you would like to give online, you will need to setup an account. The link can be found on our website under the Care/Give tab.

Advent Choir Singers are invited to gather to rehearse special music for the Advent season. Anyone who would like to sing, please join us! Music reading helpful but not necessary. We meet in room 108 at 9:00 am. For further information contact Debra Moses.

Adult Christian Education Classes: Join us next week as we continue exploring key ideas behind Martin Luther's 95 propositions that ignited the Protestant Reformation. Join us weekly at 9:30 - upstairs in the Education Building.

Five Solas: A Class 500 Years in the Making

The Session

On October 31st, 1517, an obscure Augustinian monk nailed a piece of paper to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The paper contained 95 propositions for debate about church practices. This simple act sparked a movement to reform the Church and regain the heart of the Gospel. Five hundred years have passed and here we stand. What was the Protestant Reformation? Why is it important for us today? Was it only an intellectual debate, or was it something else? What were the key ideas? And, how do they apply to us? Please join the elders of Grace over a six-week period beginning October 15th, as we explore these questions together.

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. Groups consist of 8-15 people meeting regularly in homes, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. Most groups meet on Sunday nights, but other times are also available. Many groups share a meal, but the desire of all our groups is to share our lives with one another. Descriptions and sign up sheets are available in the narthex. All groups are open and eager for new members. If you'd like to know more, contact Todd Crusey at todd@gracewoodlands.org.

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. We eat and laugh and play during our time together. The goal is to have fun at SNiCK through friendship and fellowship.
- **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 for updates in the church directory.
 - Nov 10th- Thanksgiving Playgroup- Location TBD

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

- **Rain Walks** is a grief support group for women who are dealing with a significant loss in their life, either recently or in the past. Please come to listen as we discuss our journeys and ways to "walk" through our loss. We meet once a month, year round. Dates and times vary each meeting. Our next meeting will be at Black Walnut Café on Wednesday, November 8th starting at 10:00 am. Contact Sabrina Amell for more information.
- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, December 7th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Kristen Power.
- **Women's Bible Studies:** On Wednesday evenings Join us at La Madeline from 6-7:30 pm for dinner, dessert, or coffee and discussion. We are reading "Jesus The King" by Tim Keller, questions contact Jan Johnston. On Thursday mornings from 9:30-11 am we'll study Matthew using DA Carson's book "God With Us." Childcare is provided on Thursdays. If you have questions, contact Kristen Chandler.

Men's Fraternal:

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, November 14th. Join us at Goode Co. (8865 Six Pines Dr, Suite 100, Shenandoah) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our next twice monthly men's breakfast will be at **6:30 am on Tuesday**, November 14th at the Egg & I on Research Forest. A breakfast buffet will be available at \$10 per person. Steve Wilmoth is teaching a study on the book of James.

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 in Room 206.
- **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. Friends are always welcome.

- **Friendsgiving Dinner:** On Saturday, November 18th, join us for a Youth Thanksgiving dinner to celebrate friendship and delicious food. Meat will be provided; please bring sides and desserts. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex next Sunday. Location and time is TBD.

Community Service Opportunities:

- **CASA** is seeing an increase in the number of children who need CPS intervention. CPS and the Child Protection Courts are overwhelmed yet these are children who need someone who is not overwhelmed. Someone who will be on their side, listen to them, and see all aspects of their situation until they again have a permanent parent who will love and protect them. The website for CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County describes the work we do on the first page: <https://casaspeaks4kids.com/>. Contact Dave Moncla for more information.
- **Tamina Community Center:** Contact Laurel Stevens if you are interested in joining our Tuesday tutoring team from 4-5 pm. A background check is required. Contact Laurel Stevens.

GraceCares:

- **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.
- **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.

- **November Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout November.
 - Elizabeth Milligan, Cornerstone of Houston Team Counseling
 - Missy Herndon, Interfaith Family Services
- **PCA Global Missions Conference,** Dallas, Nov 9th-12th. Be in prayer for our denomination's primary conference focused on global missions and the plight of the refugee. Eight representatives from Grace will attend, and our own Wendy Dempsey will speak in one of the panel sessions. Pray for safe travel, deep learning, and a fresh vision for serving as God's representatives to those in need.

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
 Open position | RUF | Texas A&M University
 Dennis & Jane Hermerding | King's Cross Church | Cypress, TX
 Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, TX
 Bill Thomas | PCA Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX
 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
 Wil & Mary Nettleton | 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
 Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio

• **International Mission Partners**

Jason & Sarah Pickard | RUF International | Texas A&M University
 Open position | 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
 Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe
 Mission to The World (MTW) | Atlanta, GA

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

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Projected Budget*	68,150	613,350	
Actual General Fund	70,032	554,814	
Variance	1,882	(58,536)	*Based on a 2017 budget of \$817,800

Banners Explained: In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection. This color indicates ordinary time, which is the time between the major Christian Seasons.

The Banner on right symbolizes the Trinity, the belief that God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and yet, one God. No part of the Trinity is ever out of alignment (moving independently) from the other parts of the Trinity. The circle represents eternity. The circle is frequently seen with the Trinitarian symbol, representing the eternal qualities of each part of the Godhead.

On the left, 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. The IHS in the center is the abbreviated name of Jesus in the greek and is a very old symbol, dating back to the first century. Each panel focuses on a central aspect of His work. The cross is framed with grapes, a symbol of our Lord's blood shed on the cross for us.

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

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 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.