



8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://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*

*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

"The arrival of the 'Magi'...introduces us to something which Matthew wants us to be clear about from the start. If Jesus is in some sense king of the Jews, that doesn't mean that his rule is limited to the Jewish people. At the heart of many prophecies about the coming king, the Messiah, there were predictions that his rule would bring God's justice and peace to the whole world. Matthew will end his gospel with Jesus commissioning his followers to go out and make disciples from every nation; this, it seems, is the way that the prophecies of the Messiah's worldwide rule are going to come true...Think about what it meant for Jesus to be the true king of the Jews. And then - come to him, by whatever route you can, and with the best gifts you can find."

— Tom Wright  
*Matthew for Everyone: Part One*

"The Magi were pagans serving a pagan king. Yet God spoke to them, for that is what he does. Christianity is not a religion for 'good people,' it is for sinners who listen when God calls."

— Dan Doriani  
*Matthew: Volume 1 (Reformed Expository Commentaries)*

"It is interesting that the Jewish religious leaders made no attempt to follow through on the possibility that the baby to be born might be the long-awaited Messiah. The first to understand and take action were dignitaries from a foreign land. Already at this early stage in the Gospel we have an indication of the universal implications of the incarnation. In Christ all people, not Jews only, may be brought into God's favor."

— Robert Mounce  
*New International Biblical Commentary: Matthew*

# Grace Presbyterian Church

*Epiphany Sunday*

January 7, 2018

10:30 a.m.

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Preparation for Worship<sup>1</sup>**

---

*Praise*

---

**Call to Worship**

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

*People: and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

Leader: See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,

*People: but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.*

Leader: Nations will come to your light,

*People: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

---

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

**Song of Praise**

*Come Light Our Hearts*

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Song of Adoration**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**Private Praise and Adoration**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Renewal* \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture Reading**

**John 3:19**

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

**Confession of Sin**

*Minister  
& People:*

*God of light, we have been so blind when truth has been so clear. When we could have looked ahead, we fell behind. When we could have viewed the wider picture, we saw only a part. When we could have sensed the Spirit leading, we missed the way. We often ignore the light and choose to walk in the shadows. Forgive our dim apprehension of love's clear leading. Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see, through the light that lingers when all else fails, even the bright Morning Star of our faith, Jesus Christ, the Savior.*

**Private Confession and Reflection**

## Words of Encouragement

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

## Song of Thanksgiving

*What Child is This?*

## 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 2:1-12**

**Sermon**

Mr. Todd Crusey

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

---

***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**

*We Three Kings*

**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

*Jesus Shall Reign*

## Benediction<sup>2</sup>

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## 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 Music<sup>3</sup>

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

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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*

---

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*O COME, LET US ADORE HIM*

**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](mailto: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.

**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.

**Adult Sunday Morning Classes:** New classes begin next week. Please join us for one of the following.

• **Foundations of Christian Doctrine** **Anthony Boccardi**

We live what we believe, but how well do our most cherished convictions compare with the foundational tenets of Christianity that form our compass, our rudder? Anthony invites us to grow in being the fragrant aroma of Christ, so that we and our neighbors can envision a different, better kingdom even as we struggle to live out our faith in our present-day culture.

• **Gospel Mercy** **Damon Webster**

Jesus issues a steep command to all his followers: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." What does this mean for the heart that cries out? How are we to reflect mercy into the world? Damon invites us to consider how a deeper grasp of God's mercy transforms suffering into freedom.

• **Intro to Grace Presbyterian** **David Wilcher**

Whether you are on the fast track toward membership or the walking path toward learning more about us, this introductory class about Grace Presbyterian Church is for you! This is a great chance to better understand the mission and ministry of this church, as well as to interrogate the pastor with any questions you might have.

**Join us weekly at 9:30 - upstairs in the Education Building.**

**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. *Community Groups have been on break, but will resume next Sunday, January 14th.* If you'd like to learn more community life at Grace, please contact Todd Crusey at [todd@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:todd@gracewoodlands.org).

**Thank you from the Staff:** We wanted to express our heartfelt appreciation for your kindness to us and for the wonderful Christmas gifts. It seems like such a small thing to simply say thank you. But, we are so thankful for the graciousness of our God and your love. You will never know how much your gift means to us. We take comfort in knowing that our Redeemer will not forget your sacrifice and your tenderness.

Your labor, love and toleration are a song of grace to our hearts. Under the mercy, the Wilchers, the Boboses, the Cruseys, the Haskinses and Baird households.

**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. Classes resume on January 14th.

- **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** is on holiday break and will resume on January 14th.

#### **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. **We will resume our normal schedule on January 14th.**
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship)** On Sunday evenings we gather to eat together, fellowship 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. Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be made in the image of God. Join us this semester as we discuss all the differing relationships we have in our lives and what does it mean to usher the love of Christ into all of these. **We will resume our normal schedule on January 14th.**
- **Service Opportunities:**
  - **Tutoring at Tamina:** Come and serve at the Tamina Community Center from 3:45-5:00 pm on Tuesdays to tutor, play with, and love on a great group of kids. Any questions, contact Grayson for more information.

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

- **Women For Women begins Jan 23rd-**Women for Women is a confidential support group that invites women to embark together on a healing journey to know our Wounded Healer more fully. The group will meet Tuesday evenings beginning with an orientation on January 23rd. We'll springboard our discussions from the book to be told by Dan Allender. Each week there will be assigned reading and writing. Enrollment is limited so please contact Joy Zeigler soon.
- **Women's In-Town Retreat:** Our *Name Above All Names Women's Retreat* will be held here at Grace on January 19th-20th, 2018. We will begin with dinner on Friday at 6:00 pm and end after lunch on Saturday. All women are invited to an in depth study of the seven names of Jesus that reveal his work and ministry. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or the office by January 7th. Registration is \$40 per person. If you'd like to know more, contact Kristen Chandler ,
- **Girls' Night Out: Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, February 1st we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Kristen Power.**

#### **Men's Fraternal:**

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, January 16th. Join us at Stadia Sports Grill (89595 Six Pines Dr #1110, The Woodlands) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast meets next at **6:30 am on Tuesday, January 9th** at the Egg & I on Research Forest. A breakfast buffet is available at \$10 per person. Steve Wilmoth is teaching a study on the Person and Work of Jesus.

### GraceCares:

- **ESL Informational Meeting:** GraceCares is looking to serve the needs of our community by offering ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes. ESL is a great way to reach out to our friends and neighbors who are non-native english speakers. No prior experience or training is required. GraceCares will provide training and resources, but we need teachers! If you are interested, please plan to attend an informational meeting on **Sunday, January 21st from 12-2 pm**. *Lunch will be provided.*
- **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. Our next visit will be **January 14th** at 1:15. We would love to have you join us. Contact Laurel Stevens or Dan Brink for more information.
- **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.

- **January Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of January.
  - Rev. Dennis & Mrs. Jane Hermerding, King's Cross Church, Cypress, TX
  - Rev. Wil & Mrs. Mary Nettleton, RUF at Trinity University
- **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 in 2017. Our final budget numbers will be forth coming.

**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](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org) or 281-296-0911.
- **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.
- **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.

**Banners Explained:** The visuals of the worship space change dramatically from the Fourth Sunday of Advent to the celebration of Christmas. White, yellow, and gold are the colors of Christmas. These colors bring to mind the angels, the star of peace, the shepherds, the manger, and Jesus coming to earth as the light of the world. All of these things combine to communicate that this season of Christmas is a time of joy and light.

**Missed a Recent Sunday Worship?** MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://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](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org) | Website: [www.gracewoodlands.org](http://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 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.*