



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.*

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*Church Staff & Officers*

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**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*

*Sunny Yung*

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

## Reflections

One of the features that interests me about modern discussions about spirituality and mysticism is that sometimes—often even—what we might call religious experiences are perceived as being for their own sake: to help us along in our spiritual journey or to teach us more about God. It is hard, however, to think of any encounter with God in the Old or New Testaments that is not accompanied with the command to do something: Elijah’s encounter with the “still small voice” on Mount Horeb sent him to anoint new kings; Isaiah’s great vision in the temple in Isaiah 6 comes with the command to proclaim God’s word to a people who would not listen; Ezekiel’s vision of God’s chariot in Ezekiel 1 set the scene for Ezekiel being sent as prophet to the people in Exile. For many people today the purpose of encountering God is their own spiritual journey; for the biblical writers the purpose of encountering God is mission, by which I mean being sent out to do God’s will in the world. People who have a lively spiritual life should expect to have a correspondingly lively life of mission in the world; you can’t have one without the other. Moses discovered this to his cost. What began as turning aside out of curiosity [to see the burning bush], ended as being sent on the most challenging mission conceivable: to free God’s people from slavery.

— Paula Gooder  
*Everyday God*

While we’re often rewarded in life for playing at absolute confidence, the pretense and the mind games are corrosive to the possibility of community, friendship and redeeming love. Imagine letting go of the psychic burden of certainty. Imagine backing down from our imagined infallibility and assuming the mantle of a mere human. Imagine the poetic/prophetic way of relating that would be possible. We might become capable of questioning ourselves out loud. We might let a little air in. In the most life-giving sense, we might get a little religion.

— David Dark  
*The Sacredness of Questioning Everything*

We of the churches often gather our robes away from contamination, and thank God that we are not as other men. We don’t despise God’s name; in fact, we call upon it constantly to justify ourselves.... If we object to meat-eating, we declare that God is vegetarian; if we abhor war, we proclaim a pacifist Deity. He who turned water into wine to gladden a wedding is now accused by many of favouring that abominable fluid grape juice. There can hardly be a more evil way of taking God’s name in vain than this way of presuming to speak in it. For here is spiritual pride, the ultimate sin, in action—the sin of believing in one’s own righteousness. The true prophet says humbly, “To me, a sinful man, God spoke.” But the scribes and Pharisees declare, “When we speak, God agrees.” They feel no need of a special revelation, for they are always, in their own view, infallible. It is this self-righteousness of the pious that most breeds atheism, by inspiring all decent, ordinary men with loathing of the enormous lie.

— Joy Davidman  
*Smoke on the Mountain*

# Grace Presbyterian Church

*The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 11, 2018

10:30 a.m.

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

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

\_\_\_\_\_ *Praise* \_\_\_\_\_

## Call to Worship

**Psalm 108:1-5**

Leader: My heart, O God, is steadfast;  
I will sing and make music with all my soul.

*People: Awake, harp and lyre!  
I will awaken the dawn.  
I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples.*

Leader: For great is your love, higher than the heavens;  
your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

*ALL: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.*

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

**Song of Praise**

*Come and Welcome*

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Song of Adoration**

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Private Praise and Adoration**

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

**Scripture Reading**

**1 John 3:16-18**

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**Confession of Sin**

*Leader &*

*People:*

*Merciful Father, we are guilty before you. Forgive us the sins of our tongues: for deception and untruthfulness in our dealings with others, for resentment, coldness, impatience and ill-temper. Forgive us for the sins of our eyes: for impurity in our glances and imagination, for pining after more beauty, comfort, status, and wealth than you have given us. Forgive us the sins of our hearts: for hard-heartedness toward you and our neighbors, for pride, self-absorption, self-pity and above all for rebelling against you and doubting your love. Holy Father, remove our envy and pride and melt our hearts. Transform us, and let us, by your grace, live wholly for your glory. Take away our mourning and give us music; remove our sackcloth and give us your beauty. In Jesus' name we pray.*

**Private Confession and Reflection**

## Words of Encouragement

1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

## Song of Thanksgiving

*When the Day Seems Long*

## 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.

2 When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

3 The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet."

4 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho."

And he replied, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

5 The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," he replied, "so be quiet."

6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan."

And he replied, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. 8 Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

10 "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. 12 Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

13 Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

15 The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. 16 "Look," they said, "we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and look for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley."

"No," Elisha replied, "do not send them."

17 But they persisted until he was too embarrassed to refuse. So he said, "Send them." And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find him. 18 When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

## 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**

*Before the Throne*

### **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

*All Must Be Well*

## Benediction<sup>2</sup>

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

## 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.

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<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.

## Worship Music<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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

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<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

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*Sermon Notes*

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**2 Kings 2:1-18**

*CHARIOTS OF FIRE*

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS**

## Community Group Questions

1. How do you normally handle change in your life? Do you enjoy it or fight it?
  
2. What is the change that is occurring in this passage? What would be the natural questions that people would be asking? Are they afraid?
  
3. What are some of the ways that we are tempted to associate God's presence and power with individuals or eras? Is God limited to working through certain individuals or during certain eras?
  
4. In the midst of change, how do we see that God is at work? Where do we struggle to see God working?
  
5. Why does Elisha want a double portion of what Elijah possessed?
  
6. What does Elisha see as Elijah is taken up? How does that fill him with joy and empower him?
  
7. What is the promise made to all of God's people? How do we fulfill our prophetic role in this culture?
  
8. How would God's calling for us change the way we view our jobs and our community? How would that change us from being consumers to loving our community? How can we help one another fulfill God's call and purpose?

**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, Kate Weimar, 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.

**Easter Lilies:** If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to place in the sanctuary for Easter morning, in honor of or in memory of someone, please pick up an order card from the round table in the Narthex. Place the card and your check, earmarked lily, in the offering plate. Sunday, March 25th is the deadline to place your order. After the 2nd service on Easter be sure and take your lily home with you.

**Holy Week:** On March 30th at 6:30 pm we will have our Good Friday service. This year's Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 31st from 10 am - 12 pm at Cranebrook Park. We will gather at the park for brunch, fellowship, and egg hunting. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring food and/or drinks. We also need eggs...lots of eggs. Please bring plastic eggs filled with candy or small toys and drop them in the collection baskets between now and Sunday, March 25th. Please do not fill eggs with products containing peanuts, chocolate, or loose, unpackaged candy. On Easter morning, Christian Ed classes will not meet, but we will have two Worship services at 9 am and 10:30 am. The nursery will be provided during both Worship services.

**Adult Sunday Morning Classes:** Join us next week in the ongoing special series featuring our local ministry partners. Come meet them and hear about their work in the community.

• **Hope: Fuel for the Journey** Missions Team  
Hope, common to all people, is the fuel for the journey of life. As Christians, our ultimate hope is in Jesus Christ and the complete restoration of the world through him. At Grace we support organizations and individuals who bring hope to the world in a number of ways—hope for a better tomorrow, hope for healing, hope for a safer next step, hope for safety for our children, and hope for security in Christ. In our 6-week series we will hear from local ministry partners who work daily to bring hope to their clients or their congregation. Our guests will include Redeemed Ministries, PACN, Oaklawn Presbyterian Church, Montgomery County Women's Center, Cornerstone Team Counseling and Interfaith of The Woodlands.

**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. *Regular Sunday evening activities will not meet on March 11th & 18th. Please check with individual Community Group leaders to find out if their group is meeting on those days.* If you'd like to learn more community life at Grace, please contact Todd Crusey at [todd@gracewoodlands.org](mailto: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. Invite your friends and neighbors! We will not be meeting tonight (3/11) or next week (3/18) due to Spring Break.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Our Splash Canyon VBS is scheduled for the week of June 4-8. 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](http://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. We will have work days on Saturday, April 14th and May 19th from 9 am - 12 pm. VBS Set-Up Week will be May 29th - June 1st. If you're interested in helping in any area, please contact Kyle Bobos ([kyle@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:kyle@gracewoodlands.org)).
- **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. \* March 23rd- Falconwing Park

#### **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 we are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings in Room 206.
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship)** On Sunday evenings we gather to eat, fellowship, 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 different relationships we have in our lives and what it means to usher the love of Christ into all of these places. **March 11th and 18th there will not be SNF. Enjoy Spring Break and rest up!**
- **Tutoring at Tamina:** Come and serve at the Tamina Community Center from 3:45-5 pm on Tuesdays to tutor, play with, and love on a great group of kids.
- **Save The Date:**
  - **RYM Texas:** Calling all 7th & 8th graders (if you will be in Junior High in the fall this is for you too!) Join us for camp the first week of June. RYM Texas will be June 4th-8th, 2018 in Hawkins, TX. Our camp speaker will be Richie Sessions, he is fabulous! Great teaching and fun activities (high ropes course, horseback riding, waterslide, lazy river, giant rope swing and much more!) For more information, please reach out to Grayson for any questions you may have.

**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 (and share if you like) 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 Research Forest in The Woodlands on Wednesday, **March 28th** starting at 8:30 am. Contact Sabrina Amell for more information.

- **Women's Bible Study:** The Thursday morning group meets from 9:30-11am in the youth room and will be going through Tim Keller's study on The Gospel of Mark. The fee for material is \$5. Childcare will be provided. The Wednesday evening group meets from 7-8:30 pm also upstairs, and they will be going through Elyse Fitzpatrick's book entitled *Found in Him*. You will need to purchase the book on your own for the evening study. Questions, contact Kristen Chandler.
- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, April 5th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott.

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

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, March 20th. Join us at Stadia Sports Grill (89595 Six Pines Dr #1110, The Woodlands) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast meets next at 6:30 am on Tuesday, March 13th 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:**

- **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. We would love to have you join us. Contact Laurel Stevens or Dan Brink for more information.
- **Meals Ministry:** There are 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. If you are in need of meals, or would like to help provide meals for others, please contact our 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.

- **ESL:** GraceMissions is starting an ESL ministry in order to reach out to our friends and neighbors who are non-native english speakers. We still need volunteers to serve as classroom assistants. Classes will begin in mid-March. To learn more, join the ESL group in the church database.
- **March Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of March.
  - Rev. Juan Carlos & Mrs. Samara Martínez, RUF at Rice University
  - Rev. Charles & Dr. Bonita Davidson

#### **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  
 William & Katherin Bondurant | RUF | Texas A&M University  
 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  
 Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra | RUF International | University of Texas  
 Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Yokkaichi, 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 February 2018.

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Projected Budget	70,858	141,716	
Actual General Fund	57,842	101,391	
Variance	(13,016)	(40,325)	*Based on a 2018 budget of \$850,300

**Find & Interact with Members and Online Giving:**

- **Grace Online Directory:** The link can be found on the church website under the Connect tab. **In addition to accessing the church directory, you can join groups and print your giving statements.** 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 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.

**Banners Explained:** The change of colors for Lent and the following Sundays helps communicate the movement of sacred time as well as our journeys. The color purple is a visual reminder of our need for repentance and self-examination.

On the banner to the right is an acanthus. It is the leaf that you see all over classic Greek and Roman architecture. It is a thorny plant, and a few have speculated that it may have been the source of the crown of thorns. Within Christianity, the thorns are a symbol of pain, and of sin and its punishment. It was regarded in ancient times by pagans as a symbol of death and rebirth.

On the other is a thistle. The thistle is a symbol of temporal sorrow and the curse of sin from the story of the Fall. Because the thistle is a thorny bush, it also is often portrayed as the source of Christ's



crown of thorns. Because thistles flourish to crowd out useful crops, they have also been used to represent the "tares" or weeds written of in Matthew 13.

**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<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F      Phone: 281.296.0911  
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 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.*