



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*

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I arise today, through  
The strength of heaven,  
The light of the sun,  
The radiance of the moon,  
The splendor of fire,  
The speed of lightning,  
The swiftness of wind,  
The depth of the sea,  
The stability of the earth,  
The firmness of rock.

I arise today, through  
God's strength to pilot me,  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me  
From snares of devils,  
From temptation of vices,  
From everyone who shall wish me ill,  
afar and near. Christ with me,

Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

— St. Patrick of Ireland  
from *The Lorica of Saint Patrick*

# Grace Presbyterian Church

*The Fifth Sunday in Lent*

March 18, 2018

10:30 a.m.

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

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

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*Praise*

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**Call to Worship**

**John 7:37,38**

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

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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** *(the following prayer in unison)*

- St. Patrick

*God, my God, omnipotent King, I humbly adore You. You are King of kings, Lord of lords. You are the Judge of every age. You are the Redeemer of souls. You are the Liberator of those who believe. You are the Hope of those who toil. You are the Comforter of those in sorrow. You are the Way to those who wander. You are Master to the nations. You are the Creator of all creatures. You are the Lover of all good. You are the Prince of all virtues. You are the joy of all Thy saints. You are life perpetual. You are joy in truth. You are the exultation in the eternal fatherland. You are the Light of light. You are the Fountain of holiness. You are the glory of God the Father in the height. You are Savior of the world. You are the plenitude of the Holy Spirit. You sit at the right hand of God the Father on the throne, reigning for ever.*

## Song of Adoration

*Spirit of the Living God*

## Private Praise and Adoration

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

## Scripture Reading

**John 13:34-35**

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

## Confession of Sin

*Leader &  
People:*

*Almighty God of the prophets, you have called us to glorify your name through our love for you and for one another. We confess that our praise is more on our lips than with our lives.*

*We profess hope while we live in despair;  
We talk of peace while we prepare for war;  
We sing of love, but we curse our enemies;  
We pray your will be done but insist on our own.*

*Have mercy upon us, tender God, and cleanse and forgive our selfish ways. May Jesus Christ, who came long ago, come once more into our lives. Help us to be at peace with you, one another, and ourselves as members of your kingdom, which is now at hand—through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **Private Confession and Reflection**

### **Words of Encouragement**

**2 Corinthians 1:20-22**

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

### **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!*

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*Commitment*

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**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**

**2 Kings 2:19-25**

The people of the city said to Elisha, "Look, our lord, this town is well situated, as you can see, but the water is bad, and the land is unproductive."

20 "Bring me a new bowl," he said, "and put salt in it." So they brought it to him.

21 Then he went out to the spring and threw the salt into it, saying, "This is what the Lord says: 'I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.'" 22 And the water has remained pure to this day, according to the word Elisha had spoken.

23 From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. "Get out of here, baldy!" they said. "Get out of here, baldy!" 24 He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. 25 And he went on to Mount Carmel and from there returned to Samaria.

**Sermon**

Mr. David Wilcher

*TWO CITIES*  
**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS**

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*COMMUNION*

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*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

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

## 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

*Be Thou My Vision*

## Benediction<sup>2</sup>

*- from St Patrick's Breastplate*

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

## 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  
David Fox, keyboard  
Damon Henrichs, guitar  
David Kang, violin

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

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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.

<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 2:19-25**

*TWO CITIES*

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS**

**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 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 18th. Please check with individual Community Group leaders to find out if their group is meeting today.* 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 (3/18) due to Spring Break.
- **56er Lock-In** will be on April 6th. Mark your calendars and invite your friends! We will meet at the church at 6:00 pm and families are invited back to Grace for breakfast at 8:00 am the next day.
- **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      \*April 13th- Cranebrook Park      \*April 27th- Sawmill 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 18th there will not be SNF.**
- **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 4-8, 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. **Deadline to sign up is April 15th.**

**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 27th 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 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.

#### **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.

**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.

- **Reception Today!** Meet Dana Garcia from Montgomery County Women's Center (MCWC) in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the service. Learn more about MCWC's ministry and ways that we can help prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.
- **Serving Our Seniors:** On April 14th, Interfaith of The Woodlands will need volunteers to do simple tasks like mulching, lawn mowing, gardening, and house painting for Senior Citizens in the community. Lunch will be provided. Contact James Whitla for more information and to sign up. Registration is needed by April 1st.
- **March Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout March.
  - Rev. Juan Carlos & Mrs. Samara Martínez, RUF at Rice University
  - Rev. Charles & Dr. Bonita Davidson, MTW (Monterrey, Mexico)
- **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

**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 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.*