



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**  
*Children's Ministries*

**Grayson Baird**  
*Student Ministries*

**Elders**  
*Dan Brink  
Jon Green  
Mike Hume  
Mark Moore  
Andy Yung*

**Deacons**  
*Matt Bradshaw  
Mike Bellin  
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

Life has very little even ground.

— J.D. Robb  
*Judgment in Death*

Whenever you find a man who says he does not believe in a real Right and Wrong, you will find the same man going back on this a moment later. He may break his promise to you, but if you try breaking one to him, he will be complaining, "It's not fair."

— C.S. Lewis  
*Mere Christianity*

Fair is whatever God wants to do.

— Leif Enger  
*Peace Like a River*

Jack Sparrow: [after Will draws his sword] Put it away, son. It's not worth you getting beat again.

Will Turner: You didn't beat me. You ignored the rules of engagement. In a fair fight, I'd kill you.

Jack Sparrow: That's not much incentive for me to fight fair, then, is it?

— Jack Sparrow  
*Pirates of the Caribbean*

# Grace Presbyterian Church

July 1, 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

## Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

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

**Song of Praise**

*King of the Nations*

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Song of Adoration**

*Still, My Soul, Be Still*

**Private Praise and Adoration**

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

**Scripture Reading**

**Isaiah 64:6**

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

**Confession of Sin**

*Minister &  
People:*

*Lord Jesus Christ, you came to serve. As you came to a blind man and gave him sight, come to us in our darkness and show us the things we cannot see. As you came to a man tormented in his mind and gave him peace and healing, come to us in our tensions and make us whole. As you came to Lazarus, who was dead, and brought him from the grave, come to us in our deadness and bring us to real life now with our living Lord. Lord Jesus Christ, you came not to be served but to serve. But we see life the other way round:*

*to get where we do not give,  
to exploit whom we have not helped,  
to use what we have not earned.*

*As you came to a dying thief and promised him paradise, come to us now in forgiveness and give us hope. In your name, Lord, we pray.*

**Private Confession and Reflection**

## Words of Encouragement

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

## Song of Thanksgiving

*Reckless Love*

## 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 20:1-16**

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

7 "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius.

10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

12 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

## Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

### *THE UNFAIRNESS OF GOD* **THE STORIES OF JESUS**

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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

*Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands*

## 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

*We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

## Benediction<sup>2</sup>

**Psalm 115:14,15**

May the Lord cause you to flourish,  
both you and your children.  
May you be blessed by the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

## 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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**Matthew 20:1-16**

*THE UNFAIRNESS OF GOD*

**THE STORIES OF JESUS**

**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.

**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 consisting of 8-15 people meet regularly from September to May. Community Groups take a break for the summer but will resume in the fall.

**Grace Online** gives users access to the church directory and event calendar. Users can also join groups, print giving statements and give online. If you need any online instructions contact Dianna in the office at 281-296-0911 or [admin@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org).

- **Website:** Grace Online directory link, [gracewoodlands.org](http://gracewoodlands.org) under the Connect tab.
- **Mobile App (Elexio Community):** can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. To log on, replace "Domain" with [gracewoodlands](http://gracewoodlands.org) and use your directory username and password for the app.
- **Online Giving:** If you would like to give online, you will need to set up an account, the link is under the Care tab on our website.

**Sunday Morning Classes:** Our Summer Melange of single-session Sunday morning classes continues next week. Come and be encouraged by familiar voices sharing transformational topics that have been working on their souls. Please join us and support our speakers as they encourage our hearts to open to Jesus.

**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. We are on break for the summer and will resume in the fall.
- **Astros Game:** On July 12th, all 56er and Junior High students are invited to come with us to watch the Astros play. Tickets are \$20. Let Kyle or Grayson know how many tickets you want! As always, invite your friends!
- **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.

\*August 24th- Jessica Smith's House

#### **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 during the school year 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. We are on hiatus until August.
- **Mafia Night:** Calling all students, join us for Mafia on July 6th at Grace up in the Youth room. Drop-off at 7 pm and pick up at 9 pm. Bring your favorite deck of cards and a friend! Snacks will be provided!
- **Astros Game:** On July 12th, all 56er and Junior High students are invited to come with us to watch the Astros play. Tickets are \$20. Let Kyle or Grayson know how many tickets you want! As always, invite your friends!

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

- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, July 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, July 17th. Join us at Wings 'N More (16580 I-45 South) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast takes a break during the summer months. We will resume in September.

#### **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.

**Missions Service Opportunities & Events:** Contact John Zeigler for more information or to be added to our GraceMissions email list or to connect with a missions team advocate.

• **May Prayer Partners:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of July.

- Karen Gould, Pregnancy Assistance North, The Woodlands, TX
- Rev. Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra, RUF Int'l @ University of Texas

• **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  
Pastors Thong Lun & Mang Tiak | Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship | Houston, TX  
Pastor Bhadra Rai | Canaan Bhutanese Church of Houston | Houston, TX  
Pastor "Andre" Onokoko Shang | International Ministries for the Propagation of the Gospel | Houston  
Brooks & Meredith Harwood | 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  
Robbie & Kelly Mills | New City Fellowship Dallas | Dallas, TX

• **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

**Banners Explained:** The banner on the right is inscribed with the Latin phrase "Ego sum vitis vera" meaning "I am the true vine", an expression Jesus used to describe himself in John 15:1. The grapevines that make up the cross symbolize abundance and fruitfulness; Jesus is the only way to a truly fruitful life. The "IHS" in the center of the cross is an ancient monogram for Jesus.

The banner on the left is inscribed with the Latin phrase "In cruce salus" meaning "In the cross is salvation". Passion flowers symbolize the suffering and death of Christ, and forming a circle in the center is a crown of thorns which Jesus wore on the cross. In the center are the Greek letters alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the alphabet. In Revelation 21:6, Jesus describes himself as the Alpha and the Omega - the Beginning and the End.

**Stewardship Update:** Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for May 2018.

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Projected Budget	70,858	354,290	
Actual General Fund	67,847	318,144	
Variance	(3,011)	(36,146)	*Based on a 2018 budget of \$850.300

**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.*