



8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / www.gracewoodlands.org

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Church Staff & Officers

David J. Wilcher
Lead Pastor

Kyle Bobos
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

Christianity isn't about cosy little lessons to make us feel better. It's about what God's doing in the world - what he's already done in Jesus and what he wants to do through us today...Are we ready for the unexpected? Are we too in danger of deciding so firmly what God ought to be doing in our lives, our churches, our world that we become blind and deaf to him when he tries to tell us that it's actually going to be rather different?

— Tom Wright
Matthew for Everyone: Part One

Is the reason we see so many superficial professions of faith in some of the more prosperous and peaceful parts of the world today because people have never been required to put their lives, or at least their livelihoods, on the line for their faith?

— Craig Blomberg
Interpreting the Parables

People call out for the truth, perhaps even a word from God. They pray, "Say something, if you are out there." But God has already exceeded this request. He visited our earth, spoke, acted, lived in perfect justice and love, died, rose, and moved his servants to write it in a book, so we can reread his word, should we ever forget his message. Furthermore, this book has been translated in your own tongue. You can purchase a copy and consult it whenever you wish. This you tell to a friend, and he replies, "But I want God to speak to me." Well, he has, but you must listen!

— Daniel M. Doriani
Matthew - Volume 1: Chapters 1-13

Grace Presbyterian Church

July 8, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-7a

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

People: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and singing.

Leader: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

*People: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.*

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

*All: for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.*

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

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Isaiah 43:25

I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.

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 13:1-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."

10 The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

11 He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.
15 For this people's heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.'

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Sermon

Mr. Kyle Bobos

THE SOWER AND THE FOUR SOILS **THE STORIES OF JESUS**

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

Come Ye Sinners

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

Benediction²

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

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.

² 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 Music³

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

Brent Allmon, saxophone
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar
Jennifer Reddick, flute

David Kang, violin
Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano

Sermon Notes

Matthew 23:1-23

THE SOWER AND THE FOUR SOILS

THE STORIES OF JESUS

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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.

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.

- **Website:** Grace Online directory link, 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.
*July 27th- Felicity Bodden's House * 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.
- **Astros Game:** On July 12th, all 56er and Youth are invited to come with us to watch the Astros play. Tickets are \$20. Let Kyle or Grayson know how many tickets you want!
- **Crafternoon:** Ladies! On July 17th we are going to be flexing our artistic skills by tie dying and baking cookies up at the church. Bring a white shirt or whatever you would like to dye. Join us at Grace from 2-4 pm! Any questions, ask Grayson.

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, August 2nd 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.

• **July 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 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 office⁴.

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.*

⁴ Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F Phone: 281.296.0911
 Email: admin@gracewoodlands.org Website: www.gracewoodlands.org