

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
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David J. Wilcher
Lead Pastor

**Kyle Bobos** Children's Ministries

**Grayson Baird**Student Ministries

Elders
Dan Brink
Jon Green
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

...we don't have to fit into prefabricated moral or mental or religious boxes before we are admitted into the company of God—we are taken seriously just as we are and given a place in his story, for it is, after all, his story; none of us is the leading character in the story of our life.

- Eugene H. Peterson

The Invitation: A Simple Guide to the Bible

God, through Jesus Christ, welcomes you anyhow.

- Martin E. Marty

The scope of who it is that God means to invite to the feast, you see, is not ours to define. We are not put in charge of the guest list.

Don S. Skinner
 Passage through Sacred History

When our relationship with God is so compelling to us that we invite others to experience the same kind of life-giving relationship, we are in mission. The starting and ending point of mission is relationship, not only at the individual level but also at the level of communities... We serve a generous, lavish God who delights in beauty and diversity, color and aromas.

- Christopher L. Heuertz & Christine D. Pohl *Friendship at the Margins* 

## **Grace Presbyterian Church**

The Lord's Day

August 5, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Prelude		
Words of Welcome		
Preparation for Worship <sup>1</sup>		
	Praise	
Call to Worship		Romans 11:33-36

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

ALL: Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"

"Who has ever given to God,

that God should repay them?"

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## Prayer of Adoration (in unison)

We bow before the Father who made us, we bow before the Son who saved us, we bow before the Spirit who guides us. In love and adoration we give our lips, we give our hearts, we give our minds, we give our strength.

We bow and adore you sacred Three, the ever One, the Trinity.

## Song of Adoration

I Will Sing Praise

#### Private Praise and Adoration

D 1	
Renewal	

## **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

#### **Confession of Sin**

Minister & People:

Almighty and Merciful Father, you called us to serve others, and we agree with you. Our lives, however, do not measure up.

We have acted in ways that promote our own comfort and advancement.

We have loved the order and control over our lives we can maintain if we do not reach out to those in need.

We have run from your paths when they are difficult and involve sacrifice.

Forgive us for our offenses against you, and go on to subdue everything in us which is contrary to your purposes. By the power of your Spirit make us a community that is known by our service to others. Through Christ our Lord.

#### **Private Confession and Reflection**

## Words of Encouragement

Isaiah 44:21-23

"Remember these things, Jacob,
for you, Israel, are my servant.
I have made you, you are my servant;
Israel, I will not forget you.
I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,
your sins like the morning mist.
Return to me,
for I have redeemed you."
Sing for joy, you heavens, for the Lord has done this;
shout aloud, you earth beneath.
Burst into song, you mountains,
you forests and all your trees,
for the Lord has redeemed Jacob,
he displays his glory in Israel.

#### Song of Thanksgiving

Friend of Sinners

#### 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
eeninttintent

## 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.

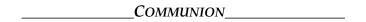
## Scripture Reading Luke 14:12-24

12 Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

- 15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."
- 16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'
- 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'
- 19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'
- 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'
- 21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'
- 22 "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'
- 23 "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

Sermon Mr. David Wilcher

CELEBRATING WITH JESUS
THE STORIES OF JESUS



#### 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**

It is Finished

## 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**

O Church Arise

Benediction<sup>2</sup> Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

#### **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.

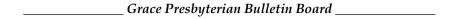
Brent Allmon, saxophone David Fox, keyboard Damon Henrichs, guitar David Kang, violin Debra Moses, flute Rae Moses, piano Jennifer Reddick, flute

<sup>&</sup>lt;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>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> All songs except hymns are copied under CCL # 1214497. The hymns are reprinted from *Trinity Hymnal* (© 1990, Great Commission Publications). Used by permission. All Scripture is quoted from, unless otherwise indicated, the *THE HOLY BIBLE*, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission

Sermon Notes	

Luke 14:12-24
CELEBRATING WITH JESUS
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.

**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.

#### **Sunday Morning Classes**

#### Good News for Anxious Christians

**David Fox** 

"Do not be anxious about anything," says Scripture (Phil 4:6), but sometimes trying to live the Christian life seems to add one more layer of anxiety. Theological distortions that are prevalent today insist on techniques and practical ideas that promise greater spirituality, but instead deliver greater anxiety. David Fox invites us to consider how such distortions may be impacting our lives, so that we can refocus on the truth of the gospel.

#### • Connecting Your Endeavors to the Gospel

Rob McIntos

Why is work so hard? The easy answer is: work ... is work. We long for success, to make a difference, to be remembered. Yet in a fallen world, our best efforts often result in the same thorns and thistles Adam was cursed to produce. A better question might be, why do we work? Join Rob in this series about our endeavors and motivations, and what God truly desires and accomplishes from our efforts.

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

**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 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.

**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.
- Splashtown: 56ers and Jr High are heading to Splashtown tomorrow. If you would like to join, you must tell Kyle or Grayson TODAY. Cost is \$35 per person. Come with a sack lunch or money to eat in the park. We are meeting at Grace at 9:30 am and will return by 4:30 pm.
- **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** is designed for students 7th grade through 12th grade.

- 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 after Labor day.
- Splashtown: 56ers and Jr High are heading to Splashtown tomorrow. If you would like to join, you must tell Kyle or Grayson TODAY. Cost is \$35 per person. Come with a sack lunch or money to eat in the park. We are meeting at Grace at 9:30 am and will return by 4:30 pm.
- End-of-Summer Photo Scavenger Hunt, Wednesday, August 8th: We are wrapping up the summer with a Photo Scavenger Hunt of epic proportions. For Jr. High and High Schoolers. We are meeting at 5 pm sharp and will be done by 8 pm. Dinner will be provided! This is going to be a way to say good-bye to Spencer for his time with us this summer. Hope to see you there! Please let Grayson know if you're hoping to attend, so we can plan on drivers.

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, September 6th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott.
- Women's Bible Study is on summer break and will begin a new study in September.

#### Men's Fraternal:

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, August 21st. 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.

- August Prayer Partners: Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of August.
  - Bailey Patel, Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry: New teachers and volunteers are needed. Key dates: Information meeting Aug 5, teacher training Aug 17th-18th, registration Aug 21st, first night of class Aug 28th.
  - Rev. Nathan & Falon Moretto, New City Presbyterian Church, Royal Oak, MI: Nathan has requested prayer for the next church plant in Detroit scheduled to launch around Easter 2019, for fund-raising and for his leadership of the church plant.
- TODAY: Join us for an ESL General Information Meeting in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. Lunch is provided. Our ESL ministry seeks to serve and love our local community by offering free English language classes to adults. English language skills allow international residents of our community to seek and maintain employment, navigate school and other public institutions, and ultimately soften the heart to the message of the gospel. ESL is an opportunity to follow Jesus' command to love and serve our neighbors. ESL has short and long term opportunities including teaching, assistant teaching, and general support. No teaching or foreign language experience is required, only a willing heart. Classes are Tuesday evenings from 7-9 pm beginning August 28th. Contact Bailey Patel for more info at esl@gracewoodlands.org.
- **TOMORROW:** School supplies for the Tamina Community Center should be delivered to the church office by **noon tomorrow.** For a list of specific supplies needed, sign up on the church website or contact Laurel Stevens.

#### • Local Mission Partners

Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX

Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX

Cornerstone of Houston Team Counseling | The Woodlands, TX

Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX

Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX

Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX

Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University

Brooks & Meredith Harwood | RUF | University of Houston

William & Katherine Bondurant | RUF | Texas A&M University

Oaklawn Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, 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 | TX

Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry

Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

#### • National Mission Partners

Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University

Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University

Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio
Robbie & Kelly Mills | New City Fellowship | Dallas, TX
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
PCA Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX

#### • International Mission Partners

Titus & Crystal Bagby | RUF International | Texas A&M University
Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra | RUF International | University of Texas
Charles & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico
Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Yokkaichi, Japan
Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia
David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany
Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe
Arab Baptist Theological Seminary | Beirut, Lebanon

**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 June 2018.

	<u>June</u>	<u> Y I D</u>	
Projected Budget	70,858	425,148	
Actual General Fund	84,830	402,974	
Variance	13,972	(22,174)	*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 office<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F Phone: 281.296.0911 Email: admin@gracewoodlands.org Website: 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
	O		
I am interested in learning abou ☐ Community Groups		□ Usher, Greeter	□ Sunday Volunteer
□ Children's Ministry		□ Student Ministry	ř
Prayer Request: □ I would like the pray	er team to pray for the f	following needs or conce	erns:
I would like to speak with son 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.