



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.*

---

*Church Staff & Officers*

---

**David J. Wilcher**

*Lead Pastor*

**Kyle Bobos**

*Children's 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

Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune.

— C.G. Jung

We of the churches often gather our robes away from contamination, and thank God that we are not as other men. We don't despise God's name; in fact, we call upon it constantly to justify ourselves.... If we object to meat-eating, we declare that God is vegetarian; if we abhor war, we proclaim a pacifist Deity. He who turned water into wine to gladden a wedding is now accused by many of favouring that abominable fluid grape juice. There can hardly be a more evil way of taking God's name in vain than this way of presuming to speak in it. For here is spiritual pride, the ultimate sin, in action—the sin of believing in one's own righteousness.

— Joy Davidman  
*Smoke on the Mountain*

There are only two classes of people in the world: those who have found God, and those who are looking for Him—and everybody is looking, thirsting, hungering, seeking. And the great sinners are closer than the proud intellectuals! Pride swells and inflates the ego; gross sinners are depressed, deflated, and empty. They therefore have room for God. God prefers a loving sinner to a loveless "saint." Love can be trained; pride cannot!

— Fulton J. Sheen  
*The Life of Christ*

# Grace Presbyterian Church

*The Lord's Day*

August 26, 2018

10:30 a.m.

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

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

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

**Call to Worship**

**Hebrews 12:28-29**

Leader: Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,

*People: Let us be thankful!*

Leader: And so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

*All: For our "God is a consuming fire."*

---

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

## Song of Praise

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

## Prayer of Adoration

## Song of Adoration

*Beautiful Savior*

## Private Praise and Adoration

### \_\_\_\_\_Renewal\_\_\_\_\_

## Scripture Reading

**Psalm 101:5**

Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret,  
I will put to silence;  
whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart,  
I will not tolerate.

## Confession of Sin

Minister: Heavenly Father, we come before you to confess sins: thoughts not like your thoughts, selfish desires, evil passions, and their corrupt fruit—cruel words and unjust acts.

*All: Keep us, Lord, from pride and arrogance and from scornful judgment of others. Keep us from worshipping even the blessings you give us. Keep us from trusting in anything except your grace. Show us mercy, that we may be forgiven, and that we may be strengthened each day by your Holy Spirit, to serve you in the joy of liberty.*

## Private Confession and Reflection

## Words of Encouragement

**Psalm 149:4**

For the Lord takes delight in his people;  
he crowns the humble with victory.

## Song of Thanksgiving

*Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

## 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

**Luke 18:9-14**

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

## Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

### *FINDING MERCY* **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

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!*

## 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. Gluten free wafers are provided in cups in the center of the cup trays. Please hold the elements until all have received so we can celebrate this meal together.



**Benediction<sup>2</sup>**

**Ephesians 4:1-3**

Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of 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>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

---

*Sermon Notes*

---

**Luke 18:9-14**

*FINDING MERCY*

**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 [mothersdayout@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:mothersdayout@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

9:30 am Christian Education Classes

10:15 am Coffee Break

10:30 am Worship

11:45 am Intercession

**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.

**Stated Consistory Meeting:** The Consistory is the combination of all the elected officers (deacons and elders) of GPC. On October 11th, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall, we will be having a stated meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend.

**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 beginning in September. If you are interested in joining a group or need more information, please email the church office at [admin@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:admin@gracewoodlands.org).

**Adult Christian Education:**

- No Sunday Morning Classes will be held next week for Labor Day.
- Join us on September 9th for New Sunday Morning Classes at 9:30 am - upstairs in the Education Building.

**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 Café (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:** The Wednesday evening study will begin on September 12th and the Thursday morning study will begin on September 13th. We will be working through the Book of Romans. this fall. Childcare is provided during the Thursday Study. More details to follow. If you have questions, contact Jan Johnston or Linda Martinez.

**Men's Fraternal:**

- John Weimar is leading our new Men's Ministry Team.
- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Thursday, September 20th. Location to be decided. Join us on our new night 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.

**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. **Promotion Sunday for all Children's Christian Ed classes is scheduled for TODAY. Classes resume on September 9th.**

- **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 on September 9th with our 4th Annual Fall Kick-Off Color Party!
- **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.

**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. **Sr. High meets 3:30-4:30 pm (NEW TIME) and Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm. SNF will resume on September 9th.**

**GraceCares - Caring for the church and the community:** If you are interested in helping with GraceCares and the needs of the church and the community, please contact Joe Tison.

- **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.
- **Giving:** If you would like to know the best way to support those who might have 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:** Bailey Patel, Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry: Pray that God raises up new teachers and volunteers and for the 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.
- **English as a Second Language:** Our ESL ministry seeks to serve and love our local community by offering free English language classes to adults. We now have 104 students registered for classes and enough teachers for 7 classrooms starting next Tuesday night from 7-9 pm. Additional volunteers are needed for the first couple of weeks to help greet and direct students to the proper classroom while staff is accepting new applicants. No foreign language skills are required. Contact Bailey Patel for more info at [esl@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:esl@gracewoodlands.org).
- **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.

**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.

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

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Projected Budget	70,858	496,006	
Actual General Fund	66,036	469,010	
Variance	(4,822)	(26,996)	*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>.

---

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