



*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*

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

**Deacons**  
*Matt Bradshaw  
Mike Bellin  
Jeff Cranford  
Mark Hill  
Scott Johnston  
Rob McIntosh  
Mike Ryan  
Sunny Yung*

Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

## *Reflections*

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Hope is not about proving anything. It's about choosing to believe this one thing, that love is bigger than any grim, bleak stuff anyone can throw at us.

— Anne Lamott  
*Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*

All we could ever imagine, could ever hope for, He is....He is the Prince of Peace whose first coming has already transformed society but whose second coming will forever establish justice and righteousness. All this, and infinitely more, alive in an impoverished baby in a barn.

That is what Christmas means—to find in a place where you would least expect to find anything you want, everything you could ever want.

— Michael Card  
*The Promise*

May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.

— Nelson Mandela

To say “I have hope” is to say something not only about yourself, but also about the world you understand yourself to inhabit: that this world is not a quarry of despair, but a realm in which the surprising can happen.

— Charles Mathewes  
*The Republic of Grace: Augustinian Thoughts for Dark Times*

# Grace Presbyterian Church

*Epiphany Sunday*

January 6, 2019

10:30 a.m.

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

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

*Praise*

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## Call to Worship

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

*People: and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.*

Leader: See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,

*People: but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.*

Leader: Nations will come to your light,

*People: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

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

**Song of Praise**

*Come Light Our Hearts*

**Prayer of Adoration**

**Song of Adoration**

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**Private Praise and Adoration**

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

**Scripture Reading**

**John 3:19**

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

**Confession of Sin**

*Minister  
& People:*

*God of light, we have been so blind when truth has been so clear. When we could have looked ahead, we fell behind. When we could have viewed the wider picture, we saw only a part. When we could have sensed the Spirit leading, we missed the way. We often ignore the light and choose to walk in the shadows. Forgive our dim apprehension of love's clear leading. Give us faith that trusts when it cannot see, through the light that lingers when all else fails, even the bright Morning Star of our faith, Jesus Christ, the Savior.*

**Private Confession and Reflection**

**Words of Encouragement**

**1 John 1:5-7**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**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 1:26-38**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” 34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.” 38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

HOPE FOR YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

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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**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**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.

## Song of Commitment

*Jesus Shall Reign*

## Benediction<sup>2</sup>

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## 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.

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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.



## 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

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

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### *Sermon Notes*

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#### **Luke 1:26-38**

*HOPE FOR YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW*

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<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

*Grace Presbyterian Bulletin Board*

**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.

**Thank you from the Staff:** We wanted to express our heartfelt appreciation for your kindness to us and for the wonderful Christmas gifts. It seems like such a small thing to simply say thank you. But, we are so thankful for the graciousness of our God and your love. You will never know how much your gift means to us. We take comfort in knowing that our Redeemer will not forget your sacrifice and your tenderness. Your labor, love, and toleration are a song of grace to our hearts. Under the mercy, the Wilcher, the Bobos, and the Haskins families.

**Save the Date:** On Sunday, January 20th, from 4-7 pm, we will be having our church wide child abuse training for our G.R.A.C.E (Godly Response to Abuse in a Christian Environment) certification. There will be no community groups that night so that everyone can attend. Please make every effort to make this a part of your week. Childcare for children ages 0-6th grade will be provided.

**Adult Christian Education:** New classes begin next Sunday! Join us weekly at 9:30 - rooms 201 & 209.

• **Foundational Christian Doctrines**

**Anthony Bocciardi**

We live what we believe, but how well do our most cherished convictions compare with the foundational tenets of Christianity that form our compass, our rudder? Anthony invites us to better live as the fragrant aroma of Christ, and to present a kingdom that is very different from the culture of our times, even as we struggle to live out our faith.

• **Finding Hope**

**Joy Zeigler**

Have you ever lost hope? In times of loss, crisis, failure or fear, we forget to hope, or worse, trust in things God never promised, leading to disappointment and despair. What is Biblical hope, and how can something described thousands of years ago apply to us now? This discussion class looks at the realities of true hope through Biblical stories of God's people in their struggles.

**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 on Sundays and throughout the week. 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). Community Groups will resume next Sunday, January 13th.

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

- **Women's Bible Study:** The Women's Bible Study on Romans is starting up again on January 10th. Join Jan Johnston for evening group on Thursday nights at Grace starting at 7:00 pm and Linda Martinez for morning group at Grace on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am.
- **Rain Walks** is a grief support group for women who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, either recently or in the past. Please come to listen (and share if you like) as we discuss our journeys and ways to "walk" through our loss. Rain Walks meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8:30 am at Black Walnut Cafe in The Woodlands. Contact Sabrina Amell for more information.
- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Café (9000 New Trails), Thursday, February 7th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott.

**Men's Fraternal:** John Weimar is leading our Men's Ministry Team..

- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast Bible Study** will pick back up on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30 am at the Egg and I. For more information please contact Steve Wilmoth.
- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Thursday, January 17th for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Join us at Wings 'N More (16580 I-45 South) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.
- **Men's Clay Shooting Event:** Saturday, January 19th at Creekwood Shooting Sports. Please come join us for a clay shooting event to start off 2019. Please email John Weimar if you would like to attend (or just show up). Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact John Weimar.

**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. We will resume on January 13th.

- **Children's Church** is offered for children ages 4 years old through 2nd grade. During passing of the peace, the children line up with their leader in the back of the sanctuary to exit worship. During the song of communion, children will rejoin their families to observe communion with the rest of the church body. We gather in room 108 in the Education Building to sing songs, pray, and hear a children's sermon. We also collect a children's offering during the service. This format is designed to model worship for our children and teach them the importance of meeting together as the body of Christ.
- **SNiCK and 56ers** All children, 8 weeks through 6th Grade, are invited to join us on Sunday nights from 5-7 pm. We eat and laugh and play during our time together. The goal is to have fun at SNiCK through friendship and fellowship. Invite your friends and neighbors! SNiCK will resume next Sunday, January 13th.
- **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 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. SNF and Sunday School will resume back on January 13th. Happy New Year!

**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. Contact Laurel Stevens or Dan Brink for more information. We welcome anyone and everyone!
- **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.

- **January Prayer Partners:**

- Missy Herndon, Interfaith Family Services, The Woodlands, TX
- Kay Burklin, European Refugee Liaison, MTW, Europe

- **ESL Ministry Spring Classes:** Our ESL ministry continues to offer free English language classes to adults in our community. We have a need for both short term hospitality and registration volunteers as well as long term teachers' assistants and instructors. We invite you to sign up for a few nights or a semester. No teaching or foreign language experience is required, only a willing heart. Classes are Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm beginning January 22nd. Short term helpers can sign up to volunteer for registration and hospitality positions on our volunteer calendar in the foyer. ESL is an opportunity to follow Jesus' command to love and serve our neighbors. Please contact [esl@gracewoodlands.org](mailto:esl@gracewoodlands.org) or speak with Bailey Patel for questions or information.

- **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 visuals of the worship space change dramatically from the Fourth Sunday of Advent to the celebration of Christmas. White, yellow, and gold are the colors of Christmas. These colors bring to mind the angels, the star of peace, the shepherds, the manger, and Jesus coming to earth as the light of the world. All of these things combine to communicate that this season of Christmas is a time of joy and light.

**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 November 2018.

	November	YTD	
Projected Budget	70,858	779,438	
Actual General Fund	58,390	697,407	
Variance	(12,468)	(82,031)	*Based on a 2018 budget of \$850,300

**Steps to access your complete Giving statement.**

**Step 1-** Log on to our church website at <http://www.gracewoodlands.org/>. **Step 2-** On the home page click on the connect tab/member login. A new window will open. **Step 3-** Click on login **Step 4-** Fill in your username **Step 5-** If you don't know your password click on forgot the password and the computer will send you a temporary password. Once you are on your page, you can reset the password to one that you will remember. Please contact Dianna if you have any problems or questions at 281-296-0911/admin@gracewoodlands.org.

**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-3 pm 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 & Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse, Email & Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Children, Age & 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           Membership

Prayer Request

I would like to speak with someone about this prayer request or other spiritual concern; please have someone contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_.

- I would like the prayer team to pray for the following needs or concerns:

*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.*