



*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
Jeff Cranford
Mark Hill
Scott Johnston
Rob McIntosh
Mike Ryan
Sunny Yung*

Reflections

Perhaps baptism really ought to have some health warnings attached to it: “If you take this step, if you go into the depths, it will be transfiguring, exhilarating, life-giving and very, very dangerous.”

— Rowan Williams
Being Christian

But sometimes I think what the church needs most is to recover some of its weird. There’s no sense in sending her through the makeover montage of the chick flick when she’ll always be the strange, awkward girl who only gets invited to prom on a dare. In the ritual of baptism, our ancestors acted out the bizarre truth of the Christian identity: We are people who stand totally exposed before evil and death and declare them powerless against love. There’s nothing normal about that.

— Rachel Held Evans
Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church

If all this is correct, baptism does not confer on us a status that marks us off from everybody else. To be able to say, “I’m baptized” is not to claim an extra dignity, let alone a sort of privilege that keeps you separate from and superior to the rest of the human race, but to claim a new level of solidarity with other people. It is to accept that to be a Christian is to be affected—you might even say contaminated—by the mess of humanity. This is very paradoxical. Baptism is a ceremony in which we are washed, cleansed and re-created. It is also a ceremony in which we are pushed into the middle of a human situation that may hurt us, and that will not leave us untouched or unsullied. And the gathering of baptized people is therefore not a convocation of those who are privileged, elite and separate, but of those who have accepted what it means to be in the heart of a needy, contaminated, messy world. To put it another way, you don’t go down into the waters of the Jordan without stirring up a great deal of mud!

— Rowan Williams
Being Christian

Grace Presbyterian Church

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 26, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

Psalm 30:4,5

Leader: Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.

People: For his anger lasts only a moment,

Leader: but his favor lasts a lifetime;

People: weeping may stay for the night;

All: but rejoicing comes in the morning.

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

Song of Praise

Come People of the Risen King

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Still, My Soul, Be Still

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 36:25-28

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from brothers and sisters in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Colossians 2:11-12

In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Song of Thanksgiving

Psalm 130

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

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

MORE THAN WORDS
WHAT IS SACRED?

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

Pensive, Doubting, Fearful

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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Benediction²

Ephesians 4:1-5

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. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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 Music³

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

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.

³ 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

MORE THAN WORDS
WHAT IS SACRED?

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.

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 on Sundays and through out the week. If you are interested in joining a group or need more information, please email the church office at admin@gracewoodlands.org.

New Adult Christian Education Opportunities: We've got some great topics on offer this June, the month of our Summer Mélange of classes. Each Sunday features a different teacher who will address a subject close to their heart. Make plans to come to the unique and intriguing classes shown below. Join us weekly at 9:30 - upstairs in the Education Building.

- 5/26 - Memorial Day Weekend, No Sunday Morning Classes
- 6/2 - Natalie Webster, Women of Other: A Call to More Humanity, More Vulnerability, and More Jesus
- 6/9 - Courtney Lott, The Single in our Midst
- 6/16 - Mike Chuchmuch, What's in a Song?
- 6/23 - Bailey Patel, The World at our Doorstep: Extending Grace through English Language Classes
- 6/30- Andy Yung, Church Government

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

- **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, June 6th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott.
- **Women's Bible Study** has wrapped up for the Spring; new classes will begin in September.

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

- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast Bible Study** is on summer break and will resume in September.

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Thursday, June 18th 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.

Student Ministry is designed for students 7th grade through 12th grade. If you have any questions, contact Courtney Lott.

- **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)** is on summer break and will resume in the fall. On Sundays 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 and Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm.
- **Jr. High RYM** will be June 24th-28th at Laguna Beach Retreat Center in Florida. This is for all Junior High students (incoming 7th graders to outgoing 8th graders). See Kyle for more details and to sign up.
- **Sr. High RYM** will be July 8th-13th at Laguna Beach Retreat Center in Florida. This is for all High School students (incoming 9th graders - graduating Seniors). See Kyle for more details and to sign up.

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** are on summer break and will resume in the fall. 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 summer break and will resume in September.
- **VBS will be June 3rd-7th.** Mark your calendars! Praise God, Registration is full! If you still want to sign up, please contact the church office to be put on the wait list!
- **VBS Prep-Up Week** is this week, Tuesday May 28th - May 31st. We need all the help we can get each day to make sure everything is ready for VBS! Childcare will be provided. See Kyle if you are interested in volunteering in any way.
- **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.

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.
- **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.

• **May Prayer Partners:**

- Ms. Karen Gould, Pregnancy Assistance Center North, The Woodlands, TX
- Rev. Joe & Ms. Felicity Congdon, MTW, Yokkaichi, Japan

• **Local Missions Partners**

- Cornerstone of Houston Team Counseling | The Woodlands, TX
- Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
- Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
- Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
- Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
- Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX
- Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX
- Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University
- Brooks & Meredith Harwood | RUF | University of Houston
- Grace Presbyterian ESL Ministry
- Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

• **National Missions Partners**

- Robbie & Kelly Mills | New City Fellowship Dallas | Dallas, TX
- David & Kelly Richter | Somerville Project | Boston, MA
- Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University
- William & Katherine Bondurant | RUF | Texas A & M University
- Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
- Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University
- John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
- Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio
- Francis A. Schaeffer Institute, Covenant Theological Seminary | St. Louis, MO
- Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX

• **International Missions Partners**

- Arab Baptist Theological Seminary / Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development | Beirut, Lebanon
- 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
- Mission to The World | Atlanta, GA

Banners Explained: Easter Sunday begins a fifty-day season of renewal known as Eastertide. This season is marked by white banners that will hang in the sanctuary until the Day of Pentecost.

The banner on the left is a reproduction of one found in ancient catacombs. The white background represents newness, freshness, and purity; the red of the cross symbolizes the work that Jesus did on our behalf. It is complemented with the first and last letters of the Greek name for Jesus (IC), the first and last letters of the Greek word for Christ (XC), and the Greek word for Conqueror (NIKA). The short bars above the letters indicate that they are abbreviations.

On the right, the circle of the Celtic Cross is a symbol of eternity as well but emphasizing the endlessness of God's love as shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for April 2019.

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Projected Budget	62,666	250,664
Actual General Fund	60,340	249,397
Variance	(2,326)	(1,267)

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.

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 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.