



P R E S B Y T E R I A N
G R A C E

*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

Caleb McDuffee
Student 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

Jesus is stuck inside my TV screen
Giving all the answers but never holding me
Heaven is too far away and I can't find no peace
Is it hell is it home or is it me

— St. Paul and the Broken Bones
Is It Me

Children aren't coloring books. You don't get to fill them with your favorite colors.

— Khaled Hosseini

Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me.

— Fred Rogers

Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.

— Garrison Keillor
Leaving Home

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day

October 13, 2019

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Revelation 7:10,12

Leader: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

*All: Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!*

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

Song of Praise

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Be Still My Soul

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 12:1,2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

*God of birth, God of joy, God of life,
we come to you as a people hungry for good news.
We have been so dead to miracles
that we have missed the world's rebirth.
We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures
and have overlooked the joy you offer us.
We have been so concerned with making a living
that we have missed the life you set among us.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift;
open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Song of Thanksgiving

In Christ Alone

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

Mark 10:13-16

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

JESUS AND THE UNIMPORTANT ENGAGING A BROKEN WORLD

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

I Need Thee Every Hour

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 Church Arise

Benediction²

Revelation 1:5-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

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

Mark 10:13-16

JESUS AND THE UNIMPORTANT
ENGAGING A BROKEN WORLD

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Who are the most unimportant people to you? To our culture? In the current political dysfunction?
2. How are children viewed in our culture? How were they viewed at the time of this story?
3. Why do the disciples want to interfere? How does Jesus respond to their use of power? Did they think they were doing a good thing?
4. Why is Jesus indignant? How many times do we encounter Jesus being indignant? So, how important is this story? What does he command in verse 14? What does this command mean?
5. What are some of the ways that we fail to bring our children to Jesus? How do we reduce Christianity to conduct, dress, reputation, etc?
6. What do these children receive from Jesus? What does it mean that he blesses them? How do we misunderstand what is happening in these verses? What does the phrase "to such as these" mean?
7. How does an infant reflect the gospel? What can an infant do? Can an infant, apart from a relationship, merit anything?
8. How does being "grownup" work against the gospel?

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

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.

Congregational Meeting immediately following the morning worship service today. We will be electing both Elders and Deacons.

GraceLife Fall Festival: Join us TODAY from 4-7 pm for food, fun, laughter, and an all-around good time for all ages. **We welcome cookies, cakes and treats for the Cakewalk and Chili Cook-off entries.** Email Wendy Fox if you are able to help or have any questions.

Adult Christian Education: Join us next week as Sunny Yung and David Moncla begin new Adult Christian Ed series. Join us weekly at 9:30 - upstairs in the Education Building

- **Who is Jesus? Controversies and Creeds**

David Moncla

"Who do you say that I am?" That was the question Jesus asked his followers and the answer is the key to the Gospel. "Who is Jesus?" was the most important issue confronted by the early church as it sought to develop definitive statements of faith or creeds in response to controversies and heresies. The church battles with the same errors, in different forms, today. The struggle is ongoing, but we are commanded by Scripture in Jude 3 to be diligent to "earnestly contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

- **The Gospel According to Moses**

Sunny Yung

Where did we come from? What's our purpose? Where are we going? These are questions the ancient Israelite's had and they're still relevant today. Come explore the first five books of the Bible and learn about our place in God's unfolding story of mercy and grace.

- **Strategies for Facing a Pensionless Retirement:** This event has been cancelled and will be rescheduled in the new year.

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. Signup sheets are on the tables in the Narthex. If you are needing more information about community groups or missed the signup sheets, email Nick Jones.

Women's Ministry Events and More! If you have any questions about Women's Ministry contact Natalie Webster at nataliekate.webster@gmail.com or join the Women's Ministry on E-Connect to get involved.

- **Women's Bible Study:** Thursday Morning study meets at 9:30 am. Contact Linda Martinez if you would like to join us. Thursday Evening study meets at 6:30 pm. Contact Jan Johnston at if you would like to join us.
- **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** is on pause for the rest of 2019.
- **Fall Hymn Sing:** Curious as to what a fall hymn sing is? Imagine our Christmas Lessons and Carols service mixed with Pumpkin Spice Lattes and freshly sharpened pencils. This will be a cozy event with a chance for worship and fellowship, and a seasonal dessert bar afterwards. Join us on Friday, Oct 25th at 7 pm at Grace.

Children's Ministries:

- **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.
- **SNiCK Pumpkin Decorating:** On Oct 20th, we will be decorating pumpkins at SNiCK/ 56ers. Kids should bring a small to medium size pumpkin, wear some old clothes, and be ready to get messy!
- **SNiCK or Treat Costume Party:** On Sunday, Oct 27th, kids should come dressed up and ready to party! There will be games, prizes, and of course, SNiCK or Treat (Trunk or Treat)! For SNiCK or Treat, parents should plan to return to GPC and be set up in the parking lot by 6:30 pm. We are asking participating adults to line up their cars in the parking lot, decorate the trunks of their cars in a festive Halloween style, and stock up on candy and/or other goodies. SNiCK or Treat is a great time to invite your friends to come to SNiCK & 56ers. There will be a prize for the best decorated trunk!

Student Ministries is designed for students 7th grade through 12th grade. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for Student Ministries, or would like more information about an upcoming youth event, or have any questions at all, contact Caleb McDuffee. Have your student connect with us on Instagram (called GPCyouth) or ask to be put in our Youth group GroupMe to hear about upcoming youth group events!

- **Christian Education:** On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 am, 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. Currently we are doing a series talking about what God's will for our life is.
- **Youth Group** is every Wednesday night from 7-8:30 pm during the school year. This will be a weekly time of youth fellowship, food, games, and a Gospel focused message. Invite friends from outside the church to join us! Come early at 6:30 to hangout and have snacks!
- **Sr. High 1-day Fall retreat:** This Fall we will be hosting a 1-day in-town retreat for our Sr. High students on Oct 26th! We plan to take our students and any friends they bring around town for a combination of fun activities, bible studies, and service projects! Students will meet at the church at 8:30am and will be heading home around 10:30 pm that night. The cost will be only \$50 to attend. This will cover all expenses for food and activities.

Men's Fraternal: We are looking for men who would like to support the men's events and planning. Please contact John Weimar, with interest and to learn more on the specific needs.

- **Men's Discipleship Bible Study** Join us on Tuesday, Oct 22nd, at the normal time of 6:30 am. Breakfast and coffee will be available for purchase and we will finish by 7:30 am. We have a new location, the IHOP on the I-45 feeder, just north of Sawdust Road on the west side of I-45. We began our 2019-20 study series on Paul's letter to the Colossians.
- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Thursday, Oct 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.

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.

- **October Prayer Partners**
 - Montgomery County Women's Center
 - William Bodurant, RUF @ Texas A&M
- **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: In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection. This color indicates ordinary time, which is the time between the major Christian Seasons.

The banner on the right 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.

The banner on the left 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.

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

	<u>Sept</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Projected Budget	62,666	563,944
Actual General Fund	66,163	579,069
Variance	3,497	15,125

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.