



*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

Kyle Bobos
*Assistant Pastor
Children's Ministries*

Caleb McDuffee
Student Ministries

Elders
*Brent Allmon
Dan Brink
Jon Green
Rob McIntosh
Mark Moore
Andy Yung*

Deacons
*Matt Bradshaw
Mike Bellin
Rhonnie Bellin
Jeff Cranford
Mark Hill
Scott Johnston
Mike Ryan
Joe Tison
Sunny Yung*

Reflections

Those who dream of [an] idealized community demand that it be fulfilled by God, by others, and by themselves. They enter the community of Christians with their demands, set up their own law, and judge one another and even God accordingly... We can never live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and deed that really binds us together, the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ... Christian community is not an ideal we have to realize, but rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our community is in Jesus Christ alone, the more calmly we will learn to think about our community and pray and hope for it.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Life Together

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day

February 2, 2020

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Isaiah 25:1

Leader: Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you and praise your name,
for in perfect faithfulness
you have done wonderful things,
things planned long ago.

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

Song of Praise

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Confession of Sin

*Minister &
People:*

Patient and loving Father, You have been faithful to us in all things, keeping your promises to those who belong to you throughout all generations. But we are not faithful to you. Each new day exposes new corruptions in our hearts that we failed to see before, and each day we add to the long list of our offenses against you. We fail to keep your commands and we violate your love by repeatedly disobeying you, even though we have drunk deeply from your fountain of mercy and grace. Forgive us. We struggle to be faithful friends, siblings, spouses, parents, and children. We have no merit before you. Let Jesus' merit stand for us. We do not deserve your love, but Jesus has bought your favor and affection for us. We are full of sin, but he is full of grace on our behalf. Thank you that you have chosen to look upon his goodness and pardon all our sin. Because of your love and grace shown to us in Jesus, help us to be steadfast in our love for Jesus and faithful in obedience to you.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Isaiah 25:8-9

He will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.
The Lord has spoken.

In that day they will say,
"Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the Lord, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Song of Thanksgiving

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

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

Acts 4:23-35

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
26 The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Sermon

Mr. Taylor Leachman

ACTUAL REALITY

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

There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood

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

Take My Life and Let It Be

Benediction²

Acts 20:32

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

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

²The 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.

³All 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

Acts 4:23-35
ACTUAL REALITY

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.

Christian Education Classes: Join us next week for more of Robin's and Anthony's classes.

- **The Beginning of Christianity: The Heritage Of Our Reformed Faith** Robin Bittick
Beginnings are a significant time in the life of Christians. Jesus declared He would build His church on the foundation of the Apostle Peter's statement, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," and that, "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:16 & 18b, ESV). This class explores the early days of Christianity and how the Holy Spirit empowered the lives of men and women used by God after the Apostles had passed on into the presence of the Lord. Their lives serve as examples to Christians today dealing with challenges to our faith.
- **Foundational Christian Doctrine:** 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 grow in being the fragrant aroma of Christ, so that we and our neighbors can envision a different, better kingdom even as we struggle to live out our faith in the present-day culture.

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, email Nick Jones.

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.

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 at caleb@gracewoodlands.org. Have your student connect with us on Instagram (called GPCyouth) or ask to be put in our Youth group GroupMe, our primary medium for communication 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. This semester we will be studying Romans
- **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! This is one of our students favorite things that we provide at Grace, and possibly the most impactful thing for their relationship with their Savior and attitude towards His church.
- **Ranchopalooza** is our annual Sr. High retreat on February 28th to March 1st at Stoney Creek Ranch! The cost per Student is \$155 for the weekend. At Ranchopalooza the gospel is preached, relationships are strengthened, students are introduced to college ministers, and Christ is celebrated. This year's speaker is Wil Nettleton, the campus minister for RUF @ Trinity University. Sign up by turning in a flyer located in the lobby. Last registration date is **February 12th**. All payment and medical release and permission forms **MUST** be turned by this date.
- **Save the Dates** for summer youth trips. - **Jr. High- June 1st-5th** - **Sr. High- July 6th-10th**

Women's Ministry Events and More!

- **Morning Bible Study:** Bible study books are here! We are starting Thursday, February 6th, 9:30-11am, in the fellowship hall. We are studying the book of Psalms. Come 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.

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

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Thursday, February 20th 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 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 from 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, please contact 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.

• **February Prayer Partners**

- Robbie & Kelly Mills, New City Fellowship, Dallas, TX
- David & Eowyn Stoddard, MTW, Berlin, Germany

- **ESL Teachers and Volunteers needed.** This semester our ESL program is ministering to approximately 80 language learners each Tuesday evening, and new students continue to arrive weekly. There are a variety of short-term and long-term volunteer opportunities, and no foreign language experience is needed. For anyone interested in working in the classroom as a teacher or assistant, an MTW sponsored training seminar will be held Feb 28 & 29 (Friday night and Saturday) at Christ Evangelical Church in Houston. Contact Bailey Patel at esl@gracewoodlands.org for more information.

• **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
- 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
- Krystal Watson | Pioneers | Eastern Europe

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 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.

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.

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

	<u>2019</u>
2019 General Fund Budget	752,000
Actual General Fund Receipts	831,966
Variance	89,965

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](http://gracewoodlands.org) 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.*