



grace
presbyterian church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

Grace Presbyterian Church purposes to be a family of believers growing together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in order to be a Biblical, reformed witness to that Grace in the Starkville-University community and the world.

THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, May 2, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

The Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude: "There's Something About That Name" William & Gloria Gaither/arr. John Purifoy

***The Call to Worship:** Psalm 24:9-10 (ESV)

***The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

***The Hymn of Adoration:** "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul" - #57

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning, and his purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression, righteousness he will maintain.

Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris'ner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever, through all ages he is King;
Unto him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

The Silent Confession of Sin

The Corporate Confession of Sin

"Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen."

The Assurance of Pardoning Grace

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

***The Hymn of Pardoning Grace:** "Amazing Grace" - #460

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

The New Testament Reading

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
Hebrews 9:11-22 (ESV)

The Pastoral Prayer and 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 forever. Amen."

***The Hymn of Supplication: "How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place" - #469**

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors,
While everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
Each of us cries, with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?"

Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there's room,
When thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?"

'Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in;
Else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God, constrain the earth to come;
Send your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home.

We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race
May, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.

The Worship of God with Our Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory: "It Is Well With My Soul" Philip Bliss/arr. Marilyn Ham

The Sermon: Esther 7:1 – 8:17 (ESV) Rev. Seth Starkey

"There's a New Beau of the Ball"

⁷ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king." ⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?" ⁶ And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁷ And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king. ⁸ And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?" As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face. ⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." ¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.

⁸ On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her. ² And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³ Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. ⁴ When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, Esther rose and stood before the king. ⁵ And she said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. ⁶ For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?" ⁷ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews. ⁸ But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

⁹ The king's scribes were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day. And an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded concerning the Jews, to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language. ¹⁰ And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud, ¹¹ saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods, ¹² on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar. ¹³ A copy of what was written was to be issued as a decree in every province, being publicly displayed to all peoples, and the Jews were to be ready on that day to take vengeance on their enemies. ¹⁴ So the couriers, mounted on their swift horses that were used in the king's service, rode out hurriedly, urged by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Susa the citadel.

¹⁵ Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. ¹⁶ The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. ¹⁷ And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

The Lord's Supper

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us" arr. Shackley

"Lamb of God" Twila Paris/arr. Mark Hayes

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***The Benediction**

The Postlude

***congregation standing**

the week at grace

Birthdays This Week

Brielle Fitzkee – May 2
Kara Roberts – May 4
Daniel Mooney – May 4
Teddy Krutz – May 6

Today

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. Evening Worship/fellowship

Monday

6:30 p.m. Trail Life

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Next Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. Evening Worship

Elder on Duty for this Sunday

Anthony Craven

Deacon on Duty for This Sunday

Chip Wall

Usher for This Sunday

Newt Thomas

Elder on Duty for Next Sunday

Dave Nolen

Deacon on Duty for Next Sunday

John Hutchins

Usher for Next Sunday

Newt Thomas

announcements

Welcome to Grace Presbyterian Church – We are so glad that you are here to worship with us! If you are a visitor, please fill out the information card in the foyer and place it in the offering plate.

Operation Christmas Child – For the month of May, we will be collecting items that boys would use. This would be items such as matchbox cars, balls, small flashlights, marbles, ropes ... You can continue to bring any of the items that we have collected in previous months. Thank you for supporting this ministry and showing the love of Christ to children all over the world!

Join the Grace Music Team—Singers and instrumentalists are invited to join our team that assists in leading morning and evening worship. For more information, please contact Cliff Taylor (Director of Music) and/or Jennings Duncan (Band Coordinator).