



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, September 12, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

The Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude: "Shall We Gather at the River" arr. Lyndell Leatherman

***The Call to Worship:** Psalm 100 (*ESV*)

***The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

***The Hymn of Adoration:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" - #116

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely giv'n,
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

The Silent Confession of Sin

The Corporate Confession of Sin

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget by the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen."

The Assurance of Pardoning Grace

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

***The Hymn of Pardoning Grace:** "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord" - #465

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the refuge, the mighty cross. (*refrain*)

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide, what can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide; whiter than snow you may be today. (*refrain*)

The Old Testament Reading

4 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. ²The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. ³And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." ⁴So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

⁵As soon as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. ⁶And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp, ⁷the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. ⁸Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. ⁹Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight."

¹⁰So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. ¹¹And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (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:** "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" – #529

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy host above,
Pray and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

The Worship of God with Our Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory: "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" arr. Mark Hayes

The Sermon: Luke 1:57-80 (ESV) Rev. Seth Starkey

"A God Who Visits His People"

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶²And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴And immediately

his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

The Lord's Supper

Choral Anthem: "Bread of Life" arr. Lee Barrow

*Break Thou the Bread of Life, dear Lord to me, as once You broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page, I seek Thee, Lord; my spirit waits for Thee, O Living Word.
O send Your spirit, Lord, now unto me that You may touch my eyes and make me see.
Show me the truth concealed within Your word, for in Your book revealed, I see You, Lord.
Let us break bread together on our knees. Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, oh, Lord, have mercy on me.*

"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever" arr. Dan Musselman

*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

***congregation standing**

the week at grace

Birthdays This Week

Julianne Jackson – September 14

LeeAnn Joe – September 14

Trey Jackson – September 16

Today

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

5:30 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday

6:30 p.m. Trail Life

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Music Team Practice

Next Sunday

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

Gray Turnage

Ushers for This Sunday

Tim Allison, Grant Carter & Daniel Mooney

Elder on Duty for Next Sunday

Dave Nolen

Deacon on Duty for Next Sunday

Terry Wagner

Ushers for Next Sunday

Tim Allison, Grant Carter & Daniel Mooney

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 and place it in the offering plate.

Ladies Bible Study – All ladies are invited to a Bible study that meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00. The study will be based on the book Women of the Word by Jen Wilkins. A nursery is provided. For more information, please see Charlotte Taylor.

Join the Grace Music Team—Singers and instrumentalists are invited to join our team that assists in leading morning and evening worship. The music team practice is on Wednesday nights at 7:00. For more information, please contact Cliff Taylor (Director of Music) and/or Jennings Duncan (Band Coordinator).

Operation Christmas Child – For the month of September, we are collecting socks, hats, caps, tee shirts and flip flops. You may 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!