



**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, 26, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

Morning Worship

## The Welcome and Announcements

**The Prelude:** "Blessed Assurance" ..... arr. Mark Hayes

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

**\*The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

**\*The Hymn of Adoration:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" - #53

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,  
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been,  
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,  
If with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,  
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.  
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief,  
Spreading his wings to o'er shade thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
Gladly for e'er we adore him.

## The Silent Confession of Sin

### The Corporate Confession of Sin

"Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

### The Assurance of Pardoning Grace

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." | Timothy 1:1

**\*The Hymn of Pardoning Grace:** "And Can It Be That I Should Gain" - #455

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

#### Refrain

Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mys-t'ry all! Th'Immortal dies: who can explore his strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more. (*refrain*)

He left His Father's throne above (so free, so infinite His grace!)  
Humbled Himself (so great his love!), and bled for all his chosen race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me. (*refrain*)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. (*refrain*)

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own. (*refrain*)

### The Old Testament Reading

5 When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. 3 And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. 4 But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. 5 This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day. 6 The hand of the Lord was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. 7 And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god." 8 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" They answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. 9 But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them. 10 So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people." 11 They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there. 12 The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven. 1 Samuel 5:1-12 (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: "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" - #708

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

### The Worship of God with Our Tithes and Offerings

The Choral Anthem: "Hymn of Promise" ..... Natalie Sleeth/arr. McDonald

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free.  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to me,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.  
In our end is our beginning; in our time infinity;*

*In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**The Sermon:** Luke 2:21-40 (ESV) ..... Rev. Seth Starkey

**“The Law-Giver Becomes the Law-Keeper”**

<sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**\*The Hymn of Thanksgiving:** “Blessed Assurance” - #693

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (*refrain*)

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (*refrain*)

**\*The Benediction**

**\*congregation standing**

# the week at grace

## **Birthdays This Week**

Barbara Monts – October 1

## **Today**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
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**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
5:30 p.m. Evening Worship/Evening Fellowship

## **Elder on Duty for this Sunday**

Tim Allison

## **Deacon on Duty for This Sunday**

Chip Wall

## **Ushers for This Sunday**

Tim Allison, Grant Carter & Daniel Mooney

## **Elder on Duty for Next Sunday**

Jonathan Barlow

## **Deacon on Duty for Next Sunday**

John Hutchins

## **Ushers for Next Sunday**

John Paxton, Joe Lopes, & Benjamin Wilkinson

# 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.

**Family Night** – We will begin our Wednesday family night activities on Wednesday, October 13. The church will provide a meal at 5:30 p.m. The cost will be \$5.00/adult. Children and youth will eat free. The adults will eat in the fellowship hall and the children and youth will eat in the education building. At 6:15, the adults will divide into men's and women's groups for a time of study, discussion, and prayer. The youth will have their own time of study, discussion and prayer. The children will have a supervised and structured play time. Music team practice will follow at 7:00.

**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. For more information, please contact Cliff Taylor (Director of Music) and/or Jennings Duncan (Band Coordinator).