

Welcome to Grace Presbyterian Church

We're glad you are worshipping with us today. Please sign the friendship booklet, pass it down and back the pew — note the names and faces of those beside you. The nursery is available for children: infants (6 weeks) through Kindergarten. A private baby feeding nook is available to parents in the infant nursery. All children are welcome in worship.

What's going on at Grace?



Pledge Cards/End of year giving - Thank you to those that have turned in your 2026 pledge cards • If you have not, we are asking that you prayerfully consider your ability to financially support GPC and turn in your pledge card as soon as possible • Pledge cards are available in the narthex • Pre-paid pledges for 2026 need to be noted specifically for clarification • All giving for 2025 will need to be RECEIVED and dated no later than December 31. Thank you for being a cheerful giver!

PCHAS Christmas Kids — Christmas Kids (formerly “Angel Tree”) provides gifts for the families in the care of Presbyterian Children’s Homes and including participants in the mentoring program. Please go to the tree in the narthex, sign your name and phone number on the sheet next to the corresponding number on the tag, and get to shopping! Please return your gift in a gift bag (no tissue paper) with the tag attached. Gifts are **due by Sun, Dec 7**. For questions contact Sarah Nickerson (254)624-5610.

Light of Hope, Light of Peace: Celtic Carols for Christmas’ will be performed by our choir on **Sun, Dec 7**, in our morning worship. Our choir will be joined by Emily Gary, piano, flute, drums and violin for this wonderful Lessons and Carols of Celtic Christmas music. Join us as we sing in our anticipation of the birth of our Savior through music of our heritage. Mark your calendars!



Presbyterian Women - All women of the Church and their guests are invited to attend an Annual Holiday Gathering on **Sun, Dec 7**, from 3:00-4:30PM in our Fellowship Hall. We will kick off the afternoon with greetings and light refreshments, followed by a seasonal program by Rev. Linda Norris, with music by Jennie Miller. No membership in Bible Study Circles required; this is our gift to all women of faith. Bring a friend to this holiday gathering!

Poinsettia Time! We will be decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias! If you would like to donate a plant in memory/honor of loved ones, please fill out a form located at the end of each pew or in the narthex • Return your form, along with your cash/check donation in the offering plate • Any donations given above costs will go to CTLC • **Deadline to order is Dec 14**

December Member of the Month is Shirley Gaines! Please shower her with cards by mailing to 4312 S. 31st Street, Rm #153, Temple, TX 76502. Don’t have a card? We have one for you behind the offices under the mailboxes. Fill it out and drop it in the office and we will mail it for you!

Children and Youth Christmas Pageant - Sun, Dec 21 (11 AM worship) • The children and youth in our LOGOS program will share the Christmas story in costume and song during worship! We hope you will invite friends and family to join us for a very special (and fun!) time of worship as we draw nearer to the manger.

Did you know you can give by text? Simply text the word GRACE to 254.400.2420 or take a pic of the QR code here and hit the link to give • Thank you for being a cheerful giver!



Leadership at Grace...

Preaching
Minister of Music
Organist
Pianist
Projectionist/Sound Technician
Liturgist
Elder of the Day

Dr. William Benner
Chelsea Stern
Dr. Jonathan Gary
Emily Gary
Murray McCarley
Dan Gatlin
Tom Stringfellow

GPC ELDERS

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027
Margaret Buchanan Mike Milbery Josh Essary Bill Stanley	Sarah Nickerson A’Lisa Ozment Tom Stringfellow Richard Tolleson	John Burns Margie McLoud Patti Smith Bill Stokes

BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027
Dan Gatlin Lynn Grant Bob Ritchie Marilyn Ritchie	Andrine Kagu Kenny Lange Becky Northen Norman Northen	Lee Ann Bettis Joey Tabarlet Martha Tabarlet Debbie Trahan

Visiting? We want to hear from you! Please fill out a visitor card and place in the offering plate OR scan the QR Code and fill out the form online • Thank you for visiting GPC Temple!



Wifi password is guestgpc

Watch our worship service LIVE on Grace Presbyterian’s Facebook page (@gpctemple). Need help in finding us? Contact us at 254.773.2134 or see Josh Essary. Share with your friends that cannot make it so that they can worship with us!

Pastoral Care - If you have any pastoral care needs, you can contact our church office or Elder of the week, Tom Stringfellow, at 254.217.0221 or at tstring194@aol.com

Prayer Ministry...

If you have a prayer need, please email Donna Bowling directly at dc.bowling2003@gmail.com. Please do NOT reply to the emails from the Prayer Tree—those are thru Constant Contact software system and no responses will be forwarded.

HOLIDAY UPCOMINGS...

December 7	Choir Celtic Christmas Cantata at 11 AM PW Annual Holiday Gathering; 3-4:30 PM
December 14	Communion and Handbell Choir
December 21	LOGOS & Youth Christmas Pageant at 11 AM
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Worship 6 PM (childcare available)
December 24-25	Church offices closed



Lectionary for next Sunday...

Isaiah 11:1-10 • Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13 • Matthew 3:1-12

Worship for the Lord's Day



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 30, 2025 • 11 AM

We Gather in the Lord's Name

Prelude *Come, Thou Almighty King* ARR. FELICE GIARDINI

Welcome/Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles *Northen and Claycomb Family*
One: Let us pray:
Faithful God, out of world’s chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ’s advent of peace among all nations.
All: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.
(The Advent Liturgy is from the Office of Theology and Worship-PCUSA)

Advent Candle Sung Response: #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
Stanza 4: *O come, thou Root of Jesse,
free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Call to Worship
One: In the wilderness, John the Baptist cried out, “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!*”
All: We come today to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.
One: The prophet’s voice still echoes -- calling us to repentance, to turn from sin, and to bear fruit worthy of God’s kingdom.
**All: Let us worship the God who comes with mercy and with power—the God who gathers us into new life.
Come, Spirit of holiness! Prepare the way in us today.**

*Hymn #88 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1-3)

*Call to Confession
Ever ready with cleansing love, God invites our confession, offering mercy and strength so that we may start anew. Let us now confess our failings.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)
Merciful God, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Your Son, calling us to repentance and new life. Yet we confess that we have not always turned our hearts toward You. You call us to clear the paths—to make straight what is crooked—but we have allowed sin, selfishness, and fear to clutter our hearts and hinder Your work within us. Forgive us, Lord. Cleanse us with the fire of Your Spirit. Burn away all that is false and lifeless in us and renew us with the living water of Your grace, so that our lives may prepare the way for Christ’s coming. Now hear us as we confess in silence... *(silence for personal confessions)*

*Assurance of Pardon
One: Receive the forgiveness offered us in Christ. Rejoice in the redemption God provides. Amen.
All: Amen.

*The Passing of the Peace
One: Having received Christ’s forgiveness, let us with love share that peace with one another.The Peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Let us greet one another with the Peace of Christ.

*Gloria Patri #581
*Glory be to the Father
And to the Son and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.*

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination
Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-5 (NRSV) PEW BIBLE, P. 581
This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

Message for Children A’Lisa Ozment

Chancel Choir Anthem *Peace on Earth* BY KAREN MARROLLI
From the *Celtic Christmas Cantata: Light of Hope, Light of Peace*

New Testament Reading Luke 3:1-12 (NRSV) PEW BIBLE, P. 834
This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

Sermon *The Street Preacher* Dr.William Benner

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn #92 *While We Are Waiting Come* WAITING

*The Affirmation of Faith (*John 1:10-14*)
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. Amen.

Prayers of the People—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.

Call to Offering
One: One way we prepare for Christ’s appearance is to support the church’s mission in our community and beyond. As we give our gifts may they reflect God’s generosity to us. Let us now respond to God with our offerings. **Amen.**

Offering/Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ARR NELSON, SCHMIDT AND VAN DER BEEK
Michael Gary, cello

*The Doxology # 606
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication
Lord Jesus, when You came on the scene long years ago You changed the lives of those who came to know You. We yearn for a sense of Your presence in our midst once more. Receive these gifts as signs that we are ready to be changed too. We wait in eager hope for Your advent.

Go Into the World to Serve

*Hymn #82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

*Benediction

*Benediction Sung Response REV THOMAS ALLEN
**By the grace of God in Christ Jesus, The Spirit is upon us,
To magnify the name of the Lord, to make him disciples,
To meet the needs of the least of these,
So go in peace, go in joy, go in the Spirit of the Lord.**

*Postlude *Temps de Noël* LUCIEN GUITTARD

*Words in bold type are to be read together.
Indicates worshipers are invited to rise in body and spirit.

Staff at Grace

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Web: www.gpctemple.org

Office hours:
Mon—Thurs 8AM—4PM
Friday—closed



Visitor Card

We are glad you are here! Please fill this out and place in the offering plate.

Name _____
Address _____

City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____
Text? (Yes/No) _____
Email _____
Birthdate _____

Spouse _____
Cell Phone _____
Text? (Yes/No) _____
Email _____
Birthdate _____

Children/Date of Birth _____

Today’s Date: _____
Service I attended
☐ 11 AM
Age Range
☐ Student (grade ____)
☐ Adult

I would like more information about
☐ Becoming a Christian
☐ Joining this Church
☐ Serving

Comments/Prayer request _____

Fill out this same form online
by scanning below...

