

# 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?

**First Sunday Family Fellowship - TODAY • 12PM** (following worship) • We will meet at Rosa's Cafe (1720 Scott Blvd, Temple) • All families with children and youth are invited to fellowship with other GPC families for lunch and fun! (*Dutch treat*)

**Presbyterian Women** - All women of the Church and their guests are invited to attend an Annual Holiday Gathering **TODAY**, 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!

**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 TODAY!** For questions contact Sarah Nickerson (254)624-5610.

**Poinsettia Time!** 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**

**Children and Youth Christmas Pageant - Sun, Dec 21 (11AM 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.

**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!

**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!

**Christmas Joy Offering** - The perfect gift -- JESUS -- destined to lead us and bring joy, peace and salvation. Supporting the Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Envelopes are located in the pews for giving. Give thru **December 21**.

# Leadership at Grace

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

Chelsea Stern  
Dr. Jonathan Gary  
Emily Gary  
Murray McCarley  
Margaret Buchanan  
John Burns

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	Lea 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, John Burns at 607.743.6119 or at [jpburns1984@gmail.com](mailto:jpburns1984@gmail.com)

# Prayer Ministry...

If you have a prayer need, please email Donna Bowling directly at [dc.bowling2003@gmail.com](mailto: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...	
TODAY	Choir Celtic Christmas Cantata at 11AM PW Annual Holiday Gathering; 3-4:30PM
December 14	Communion and Handbell Choir
December 21	LOGOS & Youth Christmas Pageant at 11AM
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6PM (childcare available)
December 24-25	Church offices closed



# Lectionary for next Sunday...

Isaiah 35:1-10 • Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10 • Matthew 11:2-11

# Worship for the Lord's Day



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER 7, 2025 • 11AM

# We Gather in the Lord's Name

Prelude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ARR. JOHN PURIFOY

Welcome/Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles *Nick and Denise Arnoudse  
Levi, Nathan and Caleb Arnoudse*

One: Let us pray:  
Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**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 5: *O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

\*Call to Worship (Iona Abbey Worship Book © Iona Community)  
One: We gather here in your presence, God,  
**All: In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.**  
One: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,  
**All: And you know by experience what human life is like.**  
One: We come with our faith and with our doubts;  
**All: We come with our hopes and with our fears.**  
One: We come as we are, because you invite us to come.  
**All: And you have promised never to turn us away.**

\*Hymn #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA  
(stanzas 1 and 3)

\*Prayer of Confession *from the Iona Community*  
One: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:  
To the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world.  
**All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**  
**All: Amen.**  
**All: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:  
To the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**  
One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the spirit enable you to grow in love.  
**All: Amen.**

\*Silent Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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.

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Listen to the word that God has spoken;  
Listen to the One who is close a hand;  
Listen to the voice that began creation;  
Listen even if you don’t understand. Amen.  
(Text:Anon. Canadian, alt. Music:Anon. Canadian; adapt.)

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10(NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, P. 558

Message for Children

Beth Gerdes

Epistle Reading

Romans 15:4-13(NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

PEW BIBLE, P. 924

Choir Christmas Cantata Light of Peace: Celtic Carols for Christmas BY KAREN MARROLLI  
Emily Gary, accompanist; Scott Dudley, percussion; Jennie Miller, flute; Dylan Nance, violin  
Greg and Lara Miller, soloists; The GPC Chancel Choir

1. Noel!

Tune: KINGSFOLD, English folk melody;“Drowsy Maggie,” traditional Irish reel

2. Creation Sings

Tune: CANDLER, traditional Scottish melody,“The Butterfly,” traditional Irish slip jig.

3. Peace on Earth

Tune:“Airidh nam Badan,” traditional Scottish jig;“Cooley’s reel,” traditional Irish reel.

4. The Call

Tune: SALLY GARDENS, Irish folk melody;“Forneth House,” by Robert Petrie, first published in 1790.

5. Alleluia!

Tune:“Mo Ghile Mear,” traditional Irish song;“The Blarney Pilgrim,” trad. Irish jig.

We Respond to God’s Word

\*The Affirmation of Faith (from the Iona Community, Scotland)

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People—Prayers for Advent from the Iona Community  
(each prayer will be followed by a time of silence)

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: Freely you have received, freely give. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Amen.

Offering/Offertory

Once In Royal David’s City

ARR PHIL PERKINS

\*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

One: O God of the high heavens, O Christ of the deep earth, O Spirit of the flowing waters, O Trinity of love, you have offered your love to us, and here we pledge our love and gifts to you. Strengthen us in our desire, and breathe into our bodies the passion of your love. We pray this in the name of Jesus, to whom we commit ourselves.

All: Amen.

(from the Iona Abbey Worship Book. The Iona Community. Published © 2001 by Wild Good Publications, the publishing division of the Iona Community. All rights reserved. Used with permission in worship.)

Go Into the World to Serve

\*Hymn #122

Silent Night, Holy Night/Oiche Chiuin

(Opening Stanza in Gaelic with the women in the choir)

Stanzas 1-3:All

STILLE NACHT

ARR KAREN MARROLLI

\*Benediction- A Blessing from the Iona Community

One: Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

One: As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

\*Benediction Sung Response (see screens)

REV THOMAS ALLEN

\*Postlude

Carillon on “Angels We Have Heard on High”

MARK A RADICE

Staff at Grace

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

