

# Worship for the Lord's Day

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MARCH 8, 2026 • 11 AM

## We Gather in the Lord's Name

Prelude

Minuet no. 3  
Andy Essary, cello

J.S. BACH

Welcome/Announcements

\*Call to Worship

Christine Longhurst

One: We've come to worship God,  
who makes streams flow from rock,  
who turns the parched earth into springs of water,  
who sends the rain from heaven  
and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.

**All: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams,  
so we thirst for You, O God.**

One: Come, let's worship our life-giving God,  
who pours out living water on all who thirst.

\*Song of Praise

Reckless Love

CALEB COLVER, CORY ASBURY, RAN JACKSON

\*Time of Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Renee C. Jackson

One: God of mercy, hear the prayers of your thirsting people.  
For every time we have attributed your miracles in our lives  
to our own hands alone,

**All: Forgive us, we pray.**

One: For every time we promised to trust you but turned to our own way  
when your response did not come soon enough  
or in the way we expected,

**All: Grant us mercy, O God.**

One: For the many opportunities to extend forgiveness  
that we have refused,

**All: Show us what it means to love, again, dear Lord.**

One: For each way we put our own understandings above your wisdom,  
For each time we resist your command to be reconciled with those  
who believe differently from us,

**All: Direct us in the way of peace, we pray.**

One: For our silent sins, our quiet acts of violence,  
and our indifference to the suffering round us,

**All: Forgive us, Loving One, and quench our thirst with your grace;  
Remake us into vessels of tenderness and compassion.  
For Christ's sake we pray. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Renee C. Jackson

One: Because of God's great love for us,  
we have peace with God and access to God's grace  
all through Jesus Christ  
who, while we were still sinners,  
died to free us from the bondage of sin.  
Therefore, we may ask of Christ  
to give us the living water that quenches the dryness of our souls.  
In this we know we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*Passing of Peace

One: God has received us, pardoned us, and loved us; let us forgive each other in love  
and share the peace of Christ.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us now pass the peace of Christ to one another.

**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

One: *Let us pray: 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 this day. Amen.*

First Reading

Psalm 95  
*The word of God for the people of God.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

PEW BIBLE P 479

Second Reading

John 4:5-26  
*The word of God for the people of God.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

PEW BIBLE P 864

Sermon

Alyssa Nickerson, Senior in Highschool

## *We Respond to God's Word*

Hymn # 161

*Woman in the Night*  
Verses 1-4: sung by Youth Soloists  
Refrain (each time): ALL

NEW DISCIPLES

\*Affirmation of Faith (from the Nicene Creed)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Prayer for Others

Christine Longhurst

One: *Holy God, whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation, hear our prayers for all who thirst today. We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty, who long to know Your presence, but don't know where to find You. We pray for those who are alone and without hope, those who long to feel needed and loved, those who are searching for meaning and purpose. O healing river,*

**All: pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

One: *We pray for all who are physically thirsty, who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals, whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered; those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive, or who have to be content with water that is unclean. We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart because of drought or famine. O healing river,*

**All: pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

One: *We pray for those who are thirsty for justice, who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations; those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans; those who are working to find clean water, and make it available to those who need it. O healing river,*

**All: pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.**

One: *God, we ask that you would open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst. Give us courage to work together for justice, to stand alongside those who are thirsty, so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear, and may discover the abundant life You promise to each one. We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray saying...*

**All: 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 for the Offering

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

Offertory

*In Christ Alone*  
Michael Gary, cello

ARR. STEPHEN DESARE

\*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: *Let us pray:*

**All: Loving God, we have so many reasons to say “thank You” . Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used in Your name. Help us to be generous with our money, but also with our talents and time. Strengthen us to recognize Your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.**

*Go Into the World to Serve*

\*Song of Praise

Oceans

JOE HOUSTON, MATT CROCKER, SALOMON LIGTHELM

\*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

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

ARR. LYNN ARTHUR KNOCH

Youth Leadership:

***Lulu Burns  
Andy Essary  
Michael Gary  
Anthony Lange  
Dawson McCauley  
Alyssa Nickerson  
Annie Nickerson  
Cassie Nickerson  
Camden Stephens  
Rilynn Stephens***

Maddie Clark, Director of Christian Education  
Chelsea Stern, Minister of Music

# Staff at Grace

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Emily Gary  
Pianist/Accompanist

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Welcome to Grace Presbyterian Church

We're glad you are worshipping with us today. **Please sign the friendship booklet**, pass it down 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?

**Presbyterian Women:** Whether or not you're already a member of one of our three Bible study circles, we hope you will attend our March meetings. This month's lesson, titled **"Finding Our Joy in Christ: I Will Say It Again, Rejoice,"** takes us on an odyssey through times and places where joy seems hard to come by, yet it exists and even flourishes, thanks in large part to the saving messages that we receive when we contact God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, sometimes in Christian unity, prayer, and worship, and at other, random times, when joy springs up unexpectedly, even in strange and dangerous circumstances. **Come check us out, you'll be glad you did!**

### **\*Schedule for Circle Meetings:**

Evening Circle meets first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm, at Julie Benner's house, contact Julie at [bjbenneratt.net](mailto:bjbenneratt.net)

Morning Circle meets second Tuesday of the month, 9:30am in the GPC Conference Room, contact Pat Wurster at [jwurster@hot.rr.com](mailto:jwurster@hot.rr.com)

Jennie Shull Circle meets third Thursday of the month, 12:00 noon in the GPC Conference Room, contact Patti Smith at [pcsmithburtlake@gmail.com](mailto:pcsmithburtlake@gmail.com)

**Wednesday Night LOGOS** • LOGOS meets on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 pm (dinner included.) This spring we are learning about **Christian Symbolism**. The theme this week is: **March Madness** so wear your basketball gear! **Dinner this week includes:** Popcorn chicken, fries, and coleslaw. \*Note: We have a youth offering for Middle and High School students during LOGOS too!

**St. Patrick's Celebration • Friday, March 13 at 5:30 pm** • Join your GPC friends for a St. Patrick's Day Dinner at O'Brien's Irish Pub in Downtown Temple. See the signup poster in the Narthex for more info.

Our **"EXTRA LOVE" Members of the Month** of March are **Tom & Judy Enloe**. Let's shower them with cards, notes, and "hellos" to remind them how special they are to us and to let them know that we are thinking and praying for them. If you need a card, please feel free to take one from the sharing basket - located in the HALL behind the office and workroom. Leave in Amy's mailbox for postage and mailing. We will be happy to help!

**Theater Night • Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 pm** • Join your GPC friends for **Opening Night of Cabaret** at Temple Civic Theatre! See the signup poster in the Narthex for more info.

**GOT CANDY?** Help us fill our Easter Eggs for the hunt! All candy donations must be dropped off to the church office by March 22nd.

**Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt • March 29** • Sunday school at **9:30 am** in Sunday School Rooms (Easter Crafts) • Egg Hunt at **10 am** at the Pavilion • Then join us for Donuts after! All children of the church are invited to hunt and youth are encouraged to hide the eggs. Questions? Contact Maddie Beadell at [maddiebeadell@gmail.com](mailto:maddiebeadell@gmail.com)

**Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser • March 22 (following Worship)** • All church members are invited to join us for a **Spaghetti Luncheon & Dessert Auction!** \*Half of the dessert auction proceeds will go to support Mo-Ranch!

### **Mo Ranch 2026 is coming up Memorial Day Weekend (May 22-25)**

Come and join us for a great family getaway on the banks of the Guadalupe River for FELLOWSHIP, COMMUNITY, LEGACY, & TRADITION! Grab an informational flyer and sign up sheet in the Narthex. **Cost:** Adults: \$160 PP, 18 yrs & under: \$50 PP (covers 3 nights.) The costs listed here are for a room or shared room in the Guest Lodge at MO. You are able to reserve other accommodations at MO Ranch on your own if you want to stay somewhere other than the communal Guest Lodge. Please return all signup forms and checks labeled "MO Ranch Retreat" directly to the church office, her box outside the office, or in the offering plates. \*Sponsor a child by donating \$75 and send a kid to Mo Ranch!

**Can you Serve?** Meals on Wheels is in need of cooks to help cook once a month on a **Tuesday** morning and for regular or substitute drivers. Please prayerfully consider helping in this awesome ministry that serves so many that need a meal. If interested, contact Peg Spangler at 254.231.5205.

# Leadership at Grace

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

Alyssa Nickerson  
Chelsea Stern  
Dr. Jonathan Gary  
Emily Gary  
Murray McCarley  
Christine Longhurst  
Millie Henn

## GPC ELDERS

CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Sarah Nickerson A'Lisa Ozment Tom Stringfellow Richard Tolleson	John Burns Margie McLoud Patti Smith David Salzman	Becky Brown Millie Henn Bob Shull Katie Shull

## BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Andrine Kagu Kenny Lange Becky Northen Norman Northen	Lea Ann Bettis Joey Tabarlet Martha Tabarlet Debbie Trahan	John Elwood Jo Elwood Dan Gatlin Lara Miller

### Lenten Devotionals

Lent devotionals are available in the Narthex. Be sure to pick one up!

**Meet Your Elders! TODAY, March 8th (Beginning of Worship) • Becky Brown**

**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, Millie Henn at 254-718-1096 or at [milliehenn4@gmail.com](mailto:milliehenn4@gmail.com)

**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!



## Prayer Ministry...

If you have a prayer need, please email Donna Bowling directly at [dc.bowling2003@gmail.com](mailto:dc.bowling2003@gmail.com).

## Lectionary for next Sunday...



I Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

Wifi password is guestgpc