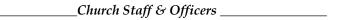


To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



**David J. Wilcher** *Lead Pastor* 

**Kyle Bobos**Pastor of Children's Ministries

**Todd Crusey** Pastor of Community Life

**Grayson Baird**Director of Student Ministries

Elders
Dan Brink
Jon Green
Mike Hume
Mark Moore
Charlton Wimberly
Andy Yung

Deacons
Matt Bradshaw
Mike Bellin
Amy Bottorff
Matt Bottorff
Justin Chandler
Jeff Cranford
Mark Hill
Scott Johnston
Steve Kovach
Rob McIntosh
Mike Ryan

Reflections
Humility is the nearly impossible task of being more concerned with our own sins that we are with the sins of others.  — Trevor Hammack
When a man truly sees himself, he knows nobody can say anything about him that is too bad. — D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones Studies in the Sermon on the Mount
He never complained. He seemed to have no instinct for the making much of oneself that complaining requires.  — Wendell Berry  Jayber Crow
Meekness towards man means bearing patiently with the hurtful actions of others and dealing gently with their failures, not only in the assurance that all of these are under God's providential control, but in the knowledge that, left to ourselves, we have no claim to be any stronger than the weakest of our friends or any better than the worst of our enemies.

-John Blanchard

# **Grace Presbyterian Church**

The Lord's Day

September 24, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Prelude		
Words of Welcome		
Preparation for Worship <sup>1</sup>		
	Praise	

Call to Worship Isaiah 12:5,6

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As a courtesy, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Thank you!

Song	of	Praise
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All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

**Prayer of Adoration** 

Song of Adoration

Be Still My Soul

**Private Praise and Adoration** 

Renewal
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# **Scripture Reading**

**Proverbs 6:16-19** 

There are six things the Lord hates,
seven that are detestable to him:
haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,
a false witness who pours out lies
and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Song of Confession

Be Merciful to Me, O God

**Private Confession and Reflection** 

# Words of Encouragement

## 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

# Song of Thanksgiving

Lord, With Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee

## The Peace of God and Announcements

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

If parents prefer, children 4 years old – 2nd grade are invited to attend Children's Church in the Education Building at this time.

# The Prayers of the People (concluded with 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 for ever. Amen!

Commitment	-
Commitment	

# The Offering

The offering is a way for members and friends of Grace Church to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give.

Scripture Reading Matthew 5:1-12

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon Mr. David Wilcher

The Power of Meekness
The Sermon on the Mount: Gospel Expectations

Communion
Communion

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion is a family meal for Christians. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer using the prayers that follow as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his people, the church.

# The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

# Song of Communion

How Deep the Father's Love

# Prayer of Consecration and the Words of Institution

# Prayer for those not communing:

## Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

#### Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you, as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

#### **Prayer of Belief**

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

#### Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

# **Prayer of Commitment**

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

# Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Grace Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the outer circle of the tray. Please hold the elements until all have received so we can celebrate this meal together.

# **Song of Commitment**

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

Benediction<sup>2</sup> 1 Kings 8:57-58

May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our ancestors; may he never leave us nor forsake us. May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in obedience to him and keep the commands, decrees and laws he gave our ancestors.

## **Dismissal**

Minister: Now, let us go forth to serve this community and the world as those who love

our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

The pastoral staff and other church leaders are available following the service to pray with you or to answer your questions about the Christian faith or Grace Church.

# Worship Music<sup>3</sup>

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Brent Allmon, saxophone Will Bittick, cello T.J. Darst, bass David Fox, keyboard Damon Henrichs, guitar David Kang, violin Debra Moses, flute Rae Moses, piano Jennifer Reddick, flute

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The benediction is much more than a wish or even a prayer. It is a renewed ordination of the people of God to their service to each other, to their community and the world. God declares his own favor toward his people.

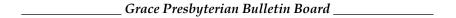
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> All songs except hymns are copied under CCL # 1214497. The hymns are reprinted from *Trinity Hymnal* (© 1990, Great Commission Publications). Used by permission. All Scripture is quoted from, unless otherwise indicated, the *THE HOLY BIBLE*, *NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®*, *NIV® Copyright* © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, *Inc.*™ Used by permission

Sermon Notes	
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# **Matthew 5:1-12**

THE POWER OF MEEKNESS
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: GOSPEL EXPECTATIONS

	Community Group Questions
1.	How would you define meekness? Is being meek something that we value or aspire to be? Why or why not?
2.	What would it mean in our relationships if we were meek?
3.	How do we respond to criticism? Do we lash out? Sulk? Do we seek it?
4.	What is the promise made to those who are meek? Is this promise too much? How do we live as if this promise is not true? What do we functionally believe that the meek receive?
5.	Why does Jesus use the word inherit? How do we inherit the earth?



**Welcome**, **Guests!** We are excited you're here with us today. We hope that you were warmly welcomed and would love for you to be a part of Grace. Please take a moment to fill out the visitor information on the back of the bulletin, tear it off and drop it in the offering plate or give it on to an usher.

Parents of Infants - Three-Yr-Olds: Our nursery and early-childhood classes provide a warm, nurturing, and well-supervised environment. Our workers welcome the opportunity to love your child! When using the nursery, please check in and label all items (bags, cups, etc.) with your child's name. If you need assistance or have any questions about the Nursery, please contact our Nursery Coordinator, Natalie Webster, at nursery@gracewoodlands.org.

**Cry Room:** A cry room is available for the comfort of our new parents in order to ensure that everyone enjoys our services. It is located in the back of the sanctuary and it is well equipped (comfortable rockers, changing table, etc.) but if you are in need of anything, one of our ushers will be glad to assist.

#### **Sunday Mornings at Grace**

8:30 am Prayer 10:30 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education Classes 11:45 am Intercession

10:15 am Coffee Break

**Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry**: To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. We would like to invite you to be a part of this uprising at 8:30 each Sunday morning in the Prayer Room (114). Join us as we pray for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

## **Service Opportunities:**

- Serving Our Seniors October 21st from 7:30 am to early afternoon. Join the Grace Mission Team for a day of Serving Our Seniors, a day of service to assist seniors through a variety of projects in Interfaith's service area. Projects include yard word, painting, cleaning, gardening, crafts and light home repair. To sign up, contact Laurel Stevens or visit woodlandsinterfaith.org and click on Volunteer to find registration forms. All volunteers must fill out a registration form. Forms should be turned in to Laurel by October 8th. This is a wonderful family service event. All ages are welcome—children 13 and under must serve with a parent. Contact Laurel Stevens with any questions. 832-373-8993 or laurel.stevens37@gmail.com Youth Students if you're interested in SOS, a release form is required for participation. Ask Grayson for more information.
- Tutoring at Tamina Community Center: Contact Laurel Stevens if you are interested in joining our tutoring team. We tutor on Tuesdays from 4-5 pm. A background check is required. Contact Laurel Stevens. Youth Students contact Grayson to find out how you can help out.

**Adult Christian Education Classes** at Grace help us learn more about the Christian faith, encourage us to grow in character and wisdom, and equip us to engage our neighbors, those nearby and those across the world. The current classes are described below, and offer reviews at the beginning in case you missed last week. **Join us weekly at 9:30 – upstairs in the Education Building.** 

• Justice Ministry Dan Brink

Justice Ministry - Why are these words such a source of misunderstanding amongst Christians? Is it possible to cut through talking points and find out what the Bible truly has to say on the subject? We'll dig deep to unpack this consistent theme in the Old and New Testaments and our calling as followers of Christ. Together, let's remind ourselves of the beauty that can be achieved through this pursuit, so that we may "go and do likewise."

• A Radical Faith Andy Yung

How often have we read the Sermon on the Mount and thought "Ah, what a beautiful message?" But have we really listened to what Jesus preached? C.S. Lewis once noted, "Who can like being knocked flat on his face by a sledge hammer? I can hardly imagine a more deadly spiritual condition than that of

a man who can read that passage with tranquil pleasure." What is the message Jesus brings us in the Sermon on the Mount? We invite you to join us as we explore this question together beginning on September 10th.

• Intro to Grace Presbyterian

David Wilcher

Whether you are on the fast track toward membership or the walking path toward learning more about us, this introductory class about Grace Presbyterian Church is for you! This is a great chance to better understand the mission and ministry of this church, as well as to interrogate the pastor with any questions you might have.

GraceLife Fall Festival: Sunday, October 8th, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for food, fellowship, and outreach to our neighbors. Sign up in the church lobby to bring finger desserts (cookies, cupcakes, etc.) or an item for the Cake Walk. Also, we need volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, grilling, and popping pop corn. At this year's festival, we will also be accepting donations to Grace's Harvey Relief Fund. Invite your friends and neighbors to participate in this family friendly event. If you would like to help with the Fall Festival, please contact Todd Crusey at todd@gracewoodlands.org.

Community Groups: To be part of the church is to be part of a community. Community is where we connect, build relationships, study, and serve together. Groups consist of 8-15 people meeting regularly in homes, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. Most groups meet on Sunday nights, but other times are also available. Many groups share a meal, but the desire of all our groups is to share our lives with one another. Descriptions and sign up sheets are available in the narthex. All groups are open and eager for new members. If you'd like to know more, contact Todd Crusey at todd@gracewoodlands.org.

### **Student Ministry:**

- **Christian Education:** On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15, we gather to know more deeply about our Lord and Savior and who are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings in Room 206.
- SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship): On Sunday evenings we gather to eat together, laugh together, and to see the person and work of Jesus more clearly in our lives together. Jr. High meets from 5:00-7:00 pm and Sr. High meets 7:00-8:30 pm. Friends are always welcome.
- No SNF the evening of October 8th. Please join us at the Fall Festival and have a great time!

**Children's Christian Education** classes are offered for Preschoolers (2-3yrs old), Pre-K and Kindergarten, 1st-2nd Grade, 3rd-4th Grade, and 5th-6th Grade. Classes meet in the Education Building at 9:30 am 2nd Grade and under are on the 1st floor, 3rd Grade and above meet on the 2nd floor.

- Children's Church is offered for children ages 4 years old through 2nd grade. During passing of the peace, the children line up with their leader in the back of the sanctuary to exit worship. During the song of communion, children will rejoin their families to observe communion with the rest of the church body. We gather in room 108 in the Education Building to sing songs, pray, and hear a children's sermon. We also collect a children's offering during the service. This format is designed to model worship for our children and teach them the importance of meeting together as the body of Christ.
- **SNiCK and 56ers:** All children, 8 weeks through 6th Grade, are invited to join us on Sunday nights from 5-7 pm. We eat and laugh and play during our time together. The goal is to have fun at SNiCK through friendship and fellowship. Invite your friends and neighbors!
- PlayGroup is an active gathering of moms and dads making space for fun, friendship, and adventure for our young children. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month. To get involved, contact Deborah Kovach or Natalie Webster. Since locations and times can change, please join the PlayGroup in E-Connect for updates.
  - \* Sept 22nd-Shenandoah Park and Splash Pad
- \* Oct 13th- Northshore Park

Women's Ministry Events and More! Please join the Women's Ministry on E-Connect to get involved.

• Girls' Night Out: Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, October 5th we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Kristen Power.

• Women's Bible Studies: We're excited to offer two options for this Fall! Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm we'll meet at PACN to study "The Prodigal God" by Tim Keller. Thursday mornings from 9:30-11 am we'll study Matthew using DA Carson's book "God With Us." Childcare is provided on Thursdays. If you have questions, contact Kristen Chandler or Jan Johnston.

#### Men's Fraternal:

- Brew Night: Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, October 17th. Join us at Wings N More (near I-45 South & 242) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like.
- Men's Discipleship Breakfast: Our next twice monthly men's breakfast will be at 6:30 am on Tuesday, September 26th at the Egg & I on Research Forest. A breakfast buffet will be available at \$10 per person. Steve Wilmoth is teaching a study on the book of James.

#### GraceCares:

- Autumn Grove: Just a few minutes drive from Grace, Autumn Grove Cottage, a sixteen resident assisted living home, provides care to men and women with Alzheimer's. A small group from Grace visits roughly once a month for about 30 minutes or so to sing, pray and visit with the residents. Children are always welcome.
- Meals Ministry: There are many seasons and events in life when we all need the help and encouragement of our community. The Meals Ministry seeks to enter into these times by providing meals and other means of support. If you are in need of meals, or would like to help provide meals for others, please contact our Meals Coordinator, Rhonnie Bellin
- Serve and Care for Grace Church members and congregation. If you would like to know the best way to support and help those who might have financial or physical needs in our church and community, we would encourage you to consider giving to the Deacon's Fund. It is through the deacons and their ministry that Grace church provides for, supports and comes alongside those who are in need. If you have questions, please contact Matt Bradshaw.
- **Prayer Ministry**: Our desire at Grace is that we take seriously the privilege of prayer and there are several ways you can participate. If you become aware of a prayer need, please communicate this to us in one of the following ways:
  - In writing: Fill out the back page of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
  - By phone: 281-296-0911 (Church Office)

Your requests will be communicated to our Church Staff, Officers, and our Prayer Team. If you would like to be on our Prayer Team, please let us know.

**Missions Service Opportunities & Events:** Contact John Zeigler for more information or to be added to our GraceMissions email list or to connect with a missions team advocate at 936-494-8631.

- **September Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of September.
  - Rev. Charlie & Dr. Bonita Davidson, MTW Church Planting Center, Monterrey, Mexico
  - Andy & Mrs. Missy Shadburne, MTW Church Planting Team, Perth, Australia

#### • Local Mission Partners

Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX

Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX

Cornerstone Recovery | The Woodlands, TX

Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX

Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX

Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX

Three Local Refugee Pastors: Pastor Thong Lun & Pastor Mang Tiak -Greater Houston Burmese

Christian Fellowship, Pastor Bhadra Rai & wife, Ruth -Canaan Bhutanese Church of Houston, Pastor

 $\hbox{``Andre'' Onokoko Shang -International Ministries for the Propagation of the Gospel\,|\, Houston,\, TX}$ 

Blake & Ryan Arnoult | RUF | University of Houston

Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University

Open position | RUF | Texas A&M University

Dennis & Jane Hermerding | King's Cross Church | Cypress, TX

Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, TX

Bill Thomas | PCA Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX

Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX

Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

#### • National Mission Partners

Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University

John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas

Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University

Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University

Nathan & Falon Moretto | New City Presbyterian Church | Royal Oak, MI

David & Kelly Richter | Christ the King Presbyterian Church | Somerville, MA

Francis A. Schaeffer Institute | Covenant Theological Seminary | Saint Louis, MO

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) | Atlanta, GA

Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio

#### • International Mission Partners

Jason & Sarah Pickard | RUF International | Texas A&M University

Open position | RUF International | University of Texas

Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Toyosu, Tokyo, Japan

Charlie & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico

Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia

David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany

Arab Baptist Theological Seminary | Beirut, Lebanon

Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe

Mission to The World (MTW) | Atlanta, GA

**Stewardship Update**: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for August 2017.

	<u>August</u>	<u> Y I D</u>	
Projected Budget*	68,150	545,200	
Actual General Fund	44,258	484,782	
Variance	(23,892)	(60,418)	*Based on a 2017 budget of \$817,800

**Banners Explained:** In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection. This color indicates ordinary time, which is the time between the major Christian Seasons.

The Banner on right symbolizes the Trinity, the belief that God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and yet, one God. No part of the Trinity is ever out of alignment (moving independently) from the other parts of the Trinity. The circle represents eternity. The circle is frequently seen with the Trinitarian symbol, representing the eternal qualities of each part of the Godhead.

On the left, the circle of the Celtic Cross is a symbol of eternity as well but emphasizing the endlessness of God's love as shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The IHS in the center is the abbreviated name of Jesus in the greek and is a very old symbol, dating back to the first century. Each panels focuses on a central aspect of His work. The cross is framed with grapes, a symbol of our Lord's blood shed on the cross for us.

**Missed a Recent Sunday Worship?** MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at <a href="https://www.gracewoodlands.org">www.gracewoodlands.org</a> under Media. You can listen online, download them or subscribe to the Podcast. If you need help or are having trouble, please contact the church office @ 281-296-0911.

**Church Office Information**: Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M – F | Phone: 281.296.0911 | Fax: 281.419.4345 Email: admin@gracewoodlands.org | Website: www.gracewoodlands.org

We are glad to have you as our guest today. Please use this page to let us know of your visit and to make us aware of any ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. You may deposit this page in the offering plate as it comes by, or give it to an usher or greeter. Have confidence that no one will call or drop by your home; this is for us to have a record of your visit or your prayer requests.

Name & Email:			
Spouse & Email:			
Home Address:			
Cell Phone #:			
Home Phone #:			
Children & Grade:			
emarch & Grade.			
Please let us know if you are:	□ Regular Attendee	□ One time visit from	out of town
I am interested in learning abo  ☐ Community Groups		□ Usher, Greeter	□ Sunday Volunteer
□ Children's Ministry	□ Women's Ministry	□ Student Ministry	□ Men's Ministry
Prayer Request: □ I would like the pra	yer team to pray for the f	following needs or conce	erns:
☐ I would like to speat		is prayer request or othe	er spiritual concern; please

Prayer of Belief...

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful that I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope.

I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, bearing my punishment and offering forgiveness.

Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.