



8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / www.gracewoodlands.org

*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.*

Church Staff & Officers

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

Andy Yung

Deacons

Matt Bradshaw

Mike Bellin

Amy Bottorff

Justin Chandler

Jeff Cranford

Mark Hill

Scott Johnston

Steve Kovach

Rob McIntosh

Mike Ryan

Sunny Yung

Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Reflections

The journey in question is the Christian year—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Trinity. From very early on, Christians have not just told the great story of the plan of God to save and renew the world. They have also lived this story, following the biblical narrative through the year and so, like a family marking birthdays and other anniversaries, reminding themselves constantly who they are and why. God’s preparation of his people; his coming in the person of his Son Jesus’ life, death and resurrection; the sending of the Spirit—these are not odd, detached beliefs, but tell a great story, a play in which we are all invited to become actors in our own right.

— Graham Kings
Signs and Seasons

The purpose of Lent is not only expiation, to satisfy the divine justice, but above all is a preparation to rejoice in His love. And this preparation consists in receiving the gift of His Mercy—a gift which we receive insofar as we open our hearts to it, casting out what cannot remain in the same room with mercy.

— Thomas Merton

The large and easy interior rhythms of a year that moves from birth, life, death, resurrection, on to spirit, obedience, faith, and blessing have been lost in the jerky, ill-timed, and insensitive interruptions by public-relations campaigns, school openings and closings, sales days, tax deadlines, inventories, and elections. Advent is buried under “shopping days before Christmas.” The joyful disciplines of Lent are exchanged for the anxious penitentials of filling out income tax forms.

— Eugene H. Peterson
introduction to *Stories for the Christian Year*

Grace Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

—based on **John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Leader: Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

People: We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!

Leader: Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.

People: Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.

Leader: Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

People: We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!

Leader: Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.

All: Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.

¹ As a courtesy, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Thank you!

Song of Praise

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

I Need Thee Every Hour

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Psalm 51:16,17

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

Confession of Sin

Leader &

People:

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you did not disdain the company of sinners but welcomed them with love. Look upon us in mercy, we pray. Our sins are more than we can bear; our pasts enslave us; our misdeeds are beyond correcting.

*Forgive the wrongs we cannot undo;
free us from a past we cannot change;
heal what we can no longer fix.*

Grace our lives with your love and turn the tears of our past into the joys of new life with you.

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Psalm 91:14-16

“Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”

Song of Thanksgiving

Not What My Hands Have Done

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

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

1 Kings 19:19-21

So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you."

"Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

21 So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

THE CALL OF GOD
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS

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

Come, Ye Sinners

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

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Benediction²

May the God of Grace and Glory go with you as you follow this Lenten path.
Wherever it takes you, and to whomever it takes you, go with the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, both now and forever.

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 Music³

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

Brent Allmon, saxophone
T.J. Darst, bass
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar

David Kang, violin
Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute

² 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.

³ 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

1 Kings 19:19-21

THE CALL OF GOD

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS

Community Group Questions

1. How would you describe the call of God? Do you believe that God has called you to service in this world?

2. Why did Elijah go to find Elisha? What does that say about God's concern to provide a voice in this world? How does God provide today? Who are his prophets today?

3. Why did Elijah throw his cloak on Elisha? What does that symbolize? How does God clothe his people today? Is that clothing for every Christian or a select few? If for everyone, how does that effect God's calling on us?

4. How would you describe Elisha's economic situation? Is he from a wealthy, prominent family? Do you think that is important to the story? Is it surprising?

5. Why does Elisha want to go back to his family? What do you make of Elijah's response?

6. Why does Elisha offer up all the oxen and the plowing equipment? What does that signify? In what ways does God call us to a single mindedness and commitment to following him? How does that eclipse our other commitments?

7. Do we have a sense on God's calling on our present vocations? How should that change your work? Please discuss.

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, Kate Weimar, 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.

Find & Interact with Members and Online Giving:

- **Grace Online Directory:** The link can be found on the church website under the Connect tab. **In addition to accessing the church directory, you can join groups and print your giving statements.** If you did not receive login instructions or would like to be added to the church directory, contact Dianna in the office at admin@gracewoodlands.org or 281-296-0911.
- **Grace Church Mobile App (Elexio Community by Elexio)** is available for iPhone and Android and can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. In addition to giving users access to the church directory and events, the mobile app also offers a mobile check-in option for the Nursery. To log on, replace "Domain" with gracewoodlands and use your directory username and password for the app.
- **Grace Online Giving Portal.** If you would like to give online, you will need to setup an account. The link can be found on our website under the Care/Give tab.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes: Starting next week, the Adult Christian Ed and Missions teams are conducting a special series featuring local ministry partners, so we can get to know them and hear about their work in the community. Please join us!

- **Hope: Fuel for the Journey** Missions Team
Hope, common to all people, is the fuel for the journey of life. As Christians, our ultimate hope is in Jesus Christ and the complete restoration of the world through him. At Grace we support organizations and individuals who bring hope to the world in a number of ways—hope for a better tomorrow, hope for healing, hope for a safer next step, hope for safety for our children, and hope for security in Christ. In our 6-week series we will hear from local ministry partners who work daily to bring hope to their clients or their congregation. Our guests will include Redeemed Ministries, PACN, Oaklawn Presbyterian Church, Montgomery County Women's Center, Cornerstone Team Counseling and Interfaith of The Woodlands.

Join us weekly at 9:30 – upstairs in the Education Building

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. A full list and descriptions of our current groups is available in the Narthex. Two groups meet immediately after the service. If you'd like to learn more community life at Grace, please contact Todd Crusey at todd@gracewoodlands.org.

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!
- **VBS** will be June 4th-8th. Mark your calendars! Registration will begin in March. See Kyle if you are interested in volunteering.
- **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.
 - Feb 23rd- The Woodlands Children's Museum

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 we are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings in Room 206.
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship)** On Sunday evenings we gather to eat, fellowship, and to see the person and work of Jesus more clearly in our lives together. Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm and Sr. High meets 7-8:30 pm. Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be made in the image of God. Join us this semester as we discuss all the different relationships we have in our lives and what it means to usher the love of Christ into all of these places.
- **Tutoring at Tamina:** Come and serve at the Tamina Community Center from 3:45-5 pm on Tuesdays to tutor, play with, and love on a great group of kids.
- **Save The Dates:**
 - **Ranchopalooza-** March 2-4, 2018. This is a weekend retreat for high school students to unplug and retreat from our busy schedules to be present with God and one another. The retreat speaker is Dagan Mayfield, RUF Campus Minister at Texas Tech. The cost for the trip is \$125 for the weekend. **Please RSVP by February 23rd!**

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

- **Women's Bible Study:** Join us this Semester as we continue our studies on the Life and Ministry of Jesus! The Thursday morning group meets from 9:30-11am in the youth room and will be going through Tim Keller's study on The Gospel of Mark. The fee for material is \$5. Childcare will be provided. The Wednesday evening group meets from 7-8:30 pm also upstairs, and they will be going through Elyse Fitzpatrick's book entitled *Found in Him*. You will need to purchase the book on your own for the evening study. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pam McDaniel or Kristen Chandler.
- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, March 1st we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott.

Men's Fraternal:

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, February 20th. Join us at Stadia Sports Grill (89595 Six Pines Dr #1110, The Woodlands) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.

- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast meets next at 6:30 am on Tuesday, February 27th at the Egg & I on Research Forest. A breakfast buffet is available at \$10 per person. Steve Wilmoth is teaching a study on the Person and Work of Jesus.

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. We would love to have you join us. Contact Laurel Stevens or Dan Brink for more information.
- **Meals Ministry:** There are 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. 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.

- **ESL:** GraceMissions is starting an ESL ministry in order to reach out to our friends and neighbors who are non-native english speakers. Teacher training was held on Feb 3rd, but we still need volunteers to serve as classroom assistants. Classes will begin in mid-March. To learn more, join the ESL group in the church database.
- **February Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of February.
 - Rev. Blake & Mrs. Ryan Arnoult, RUF at University of Houston
 - Rev. Joe & Mrs. Felicity Congdon, MTW, Yokkaichi, Japan
- **Short Term Mission Opportunities:** Looking to expand your worldview? Consider one the following missions trips MTW has coming up. Contact Wendy Dempsey at wcdempsey@gmail.com for more info.
 - Prayer walking in Marseille March 10th-17th, 2018
 - Vision Trip to London April 14th-21st, 2018
- **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

"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

William & Katherin Bondurant | RUF | Texas A&M University

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
Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra | RUF International | University of Texas
Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Yokkaichi, 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 January 2018.

	<u>January</u>
Projected Budget	70,858
Actual General Fund	43,549
Variance	(27,309)

Banners Explained: The change of colors for Lent and the following Sundays helps communicate the movement of sacred time as well as our journeys. The color purple is a visual reminder of our need for repentance and self-examination.

On the banner to the right is an acanthus. It is the leaf that you see all over classic Greek and Roman architecture. It is a thorny plant, and a few have speculated that it may have been the source of the crown of thorns. Within Christianity, the thorns are a symbol of pain, and of sin and its punishment. It was regarded in ancient times by pagans as a symbol of death and rebirth.

On the other is a thistle. The thistle is a symbol of temporal sorrow and the curse of sin from the story of the Fall. Because the thistle is a thorny bush, it also is often portrayed as the source of Christ's crown of thorns. Because thistles flourish to crowd out useful crops, they have also been used to represent the "tares" or weeds written of in Matthew 13.

Missed a Recent Sunday Worship? MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at www.gracewoodlands.org 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 office⁴.

⁴ Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F Phone: 281.296.0911
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: _____

Please let us know if you are:

- Visitor Regular Attendee One time visit from out of town

I am interested in learning about:

- Community Groups Music Usher, Greeter Sunday Volunteer
 Children's Ministry Women's Ministry Student Ministry Men's Ministry

Prayer Request:

- I would like the prayer team to pray for the following needs or concerns:

I would like to speak with someone about this prayer request or other spiritual concern; please have someone contact me at: _____.

Prayer of Belief...

*Lord Jesus Christ, 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 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.*