

Fourth Sunday in Eastertide April 21, 2024



Welcome Grace + Peace is a gospel formed family for the city. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, whether skeptical, curious, or a committed follower of Jesus Christ, there is room for you.

Nursery Nursery for children ages birth through 4 years old is available during the entire worship service. Babies and toddlers are in two separate rooms. To get to the nursery, you will exit out the back of the sanctuary and go through the glass double doors on the left. From there, you will walk down the ramp and take a right when you get to the end of the sidewalk. Enter through the double glass doors where you will find our Nursery Coordinator sitting at a table ready to check in your child and show you to their rooms. Children ages 0-2 will be in Room S102 and children ages 2-4 will be in room S101. Many parents choose to pick up their child just prior to communion for the last part of the worship service. This is a great way to introduce them to worshipping corporately. You may also opt to have your child remain in nursery for the duration of the service, as childcare is provided the entire time.

Family Room We have a room set up in Stedman Hall for families if you would like a more private place to comfort your babies. To get to the family room, you will exit out the back of the sanctuary and go through the glass double doors on the left. From there, you will walk down the ramp and take a right when you get to the end of the sidewalk. Enter through the double glass doors where you will find our Nursery Coordinator sitting at a table ready to direct you to the room which will also be marked with a sign. A live stream will be running so that you may continue to listen and participate in worship.

Children's Ministry | Children in Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to attend our "Grapes + Peas" class. Children in Grapes + Peas participate in the first part of worship with their family, are dismissed during the sermon for a lesson, and return with their teachers to the sanctuary before communion. For first-time visitors, please escort your child with us to the classroom so we can introduce ourselves.

Preparation for Worship

Prelude | I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy. Weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready waits to save you. Full of pity, joined with pow'r

Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus He will embrace me in his arms In the arms of my dear savior Oh, there are ten thousand charms

Words: Joseph Hart, 1759. Tune: RESTORATION (Southern Harmony)

Welcome

Call to Worship | Revelation 15:3-4, NIV

Celebrant: Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. *People:* Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.
Celebrant: Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? *People:* For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you.

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Worship | The Earth is Yours

Your voice it thunders The oaks start twisting The forest sounds with cedars breaking The waters see You and start their writhing From the depths a song is rising

Refrain: Now it's rising from the ground And now it's rising from the ground Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord The earth is Yours and singing Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord The earth is Yours, The earth is Yours

Your voice it thunders The ground is shaking The mighty mountains Now are trembling Creation sees You And starts composing The fields and trees They start rejoicing

Refrain

Words and Music: Michael Gungor, 2009.

Song of Worship | How Can I Keep from Singing?

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

Refrain

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

Words and Music: Robert Lowry, 1869.

Confession of Sin | *from Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 130*

Celebrant: "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
People: Lord, hear my voice!
Celebrant: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
People: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
Celebrant: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
People: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

[Silence for self-examination and personal confession.]

Celebrant: Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem his people from all their iniquities.

Assurance of Pardon | from Acts 10:43

All the prophets testify about Christ that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Celebrant: Christ is risen! People: He is risen indeed; Alleluia!

Song of Response | What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? Jesus, Savior, is our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer

Refrain: Oh, what a friend in Jesus (2x)

Blessed Savior, You have promised, all our burdens You will bear May we ever, Lord, be bringing, all to you in earnest prayer Soon, in glory bright unclouded, face to face will be our prayer Joyful praise and endless worship, will be our sweet portion there

Refrain

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven, 1855. Tune: CONVERSE. Arr. Brian Eichelberger, 2015.

Grapes + Peas Blessing

At this time children from Pre-K through 2nd grade may come up to the front of the sanctuary to be prayed over. After the prayer, they will meet their teachers at the door in the front right corner of the sanctuary to walk to their classroom in the Stedman Hall for a short lesson. Pre-K through Kindergarten will meet in Room S106, and 1st through 2nd grade will meet in Room S105. They will return just before communion. For first-time visitors, please escort your child with us to the classroom so we can introduce ourselves.

Passing of the Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you. *People: And also with you.*

New Testament Reading | Rev. 12:1-17; 13:1-10; 14:1-5, ESV (Pew Bible 1034)

12 ¹ And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ² She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. ⁴ His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. ⁵ She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, ⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

⁷ Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. ¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. 13 ¹And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ²And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,

to captivity he goes;

if anyone is to be slain with the sword,

with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

14 ¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Celebrant: This is the Word of the Lord *People: Thanks be to God!*

Sermon Series | Revelation: Seeing is Believing Sermon: You Have an Enemy | *Rev. John Sweet* Sermon Notes: [Please pass the blue sign-in pads on the left end of the row at this time.]

Offertory | Lord You Are Good

Lord, You are good And Your mercy endureth forever Lord, You are good And Your mercy endureth forever

People from every nation and tongue From generation to generation

We worship you Hallelujah, Hallelujah We worship you for who you are

You are good all the time All the time, You are good

Words and Music: Israel Houghton, 2001.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

People:

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 and ever. Amen.

Profession of Faith | Apostle's Creed

All: *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.* And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; *The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven.* And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. *I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy catholic Church; The communion of saints;* The forgiveness of sins; *The resurrection of the body;* And the life everlasting. Amen.

Celebration of Communion

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. *People:* And with your spirit.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. *People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. *People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.
Celebrant: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God.
Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!

Arrangement: David Lutes and David Breeding.

Words of Institution

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant: Let us now proclaim the mystery of the faith: *People:* Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

Table Blessing

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you, and feed on him by Faith, with thanksgiving.

Table Welcome

We welcome all baptized Christians who believe in the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ to participate in the Communion meal. This includes all Christians, whether members here or not. Children who have been baptized and interviewed by the elders of this church or the ruling body of another church are also welcome to the table. If you're still investigating Christianity, not sure what you believe, or simply choose not to participate in the Eucharist, you may either remain in your seat or come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing.

Note: Grape juice is provided in the center of each tray. All bread is gluten free.

Prayer of 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 leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Believing:

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 of Struggling Against Sin:

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and 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 to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the pioneer and champion of my faith. Amen.

Communion | Nothing to Fear

When you pass through the waters I will be with you And the depths of the river shall not overwhelm When you walk through the fire you will not be burned I am the Lord, I am the Lord

Refrain: And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear There is nothing to fear, nothing to fear For I am with you always

In the depths of your sorrow I wept beside you When you walked through the shadow I drew you near And yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same I am the Lord, I am the Lord

Refrain

What can separate you from My perfect Love? Do not fear

Words and Music: Paul Zach, Isaac Wardell, Audrey Assad, 2019.

Communion | I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready waits to save you, Full of pity, joined with pow'r

Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus He will embrace me in his arms In the arms of my dear savior Oh, there are ten thousand charms

Come, ye needy, come and welcome; God's free bounty glorify; True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh,

Refrain

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, Lost and ruined by the fall; If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all:

Refrain

Let not conscience make you linger, Nor of fitness fondly dream; All the fitness He requireth Is to feel your need of Him:

Refrain

Words: Joseph Hart, 1759. Tune: RESTORATION (Southern Harmony)

Sending Song | Lord You Are Good

Lord, You are good And Your mercy endureth forever Lord, You are good And Your mercy endureth forever

People from every nation and tongue From generation to generation

We worship you Hallelujah, Hallelujah We worship you for who you are

You are good all the time All the time You are good

Words and Music: Israel Houghton, 2001.

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant: Christ is risen! People: He is risen indeed; Alleluia!

Benediction | based on Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who raised to life the great shepherd of the sheep, make us ready to do his will in every good thing, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Alleluia! Amen.

Sending

Celebrant: Go forth, remembering who you are and to whom you belong. *People: With God's help, we will!*

Calendar

This Week

4/21	9:30 am	Sunday School
4/21	10:45 am	Sunday Worship Service
4/21	3 pm	Grace Teens Student Ministry Meeting @ Gym
4/22	7 am	Men's Morning Bible Study @ Central Market
4/24	9 am	Joy Club @ G102

April

28	12:15 pm	Ananias House Update from Becca Coley @ G101
29	7:30 pm	Women's Firepit @ TBD

May

3	6 pm	Hymn Sing @ Sanctuary
4	TBD	Parish Group Takeover @ The Pitch
5	12:15 pm	G+P Birthday Celebration
6	8 pm	Contemplative Prayer Meeting @ Church Office
17	7 pm	Spring Songwriter Concert
18	9:30 am	King's Crafters: Knitting and Crochet Club @ Office Library
26	6:30 pm	Grace Teens Movie Night Fundraiser @ Gym

Announcement Highlights

Grace Teens Movie Night Fundraiser

Church, join us **May 26th at 6:30PM** for a movie night fundraiser in the Gym. All proceeds will go towards our Student Ministry Summer Retreats and provide scholarships for those who would otherwise not be able to participate! If you cannot attend please consider giving towards the Student Trip Fund through our giving page on the website or the QR code below. Thank you for your support!



Ananias House Trip Update

Please plan to stick around after the service next Sunday, April 28th to hear an update from Becca Coley about her recent trip to the Middle East with the Ananias House ministry. We'll meet in room G101 of the gym 10 minutes after worship ends, so grab a bagel and coffee and head on over.

Announcements

Parish Group Takeover | Save the date for a parish group takeover on **Saturday**, **May 4th**. This will be a time for all parish groups to meet together at the same time and same location to "take it over" for fellowship and fun. This time we're planning to "takeover" The Pitch which has food, pickle ball, and all kinds of fun. There's no agenda, just a gathering of parish community. Make sure to represent your parish group by showing up! More details to come.

Women's Firepit Nights | Ladies, join us for a fire pit night at the McMahan's. Byob and byo-chair. Contact Mary Carlisle (mccrehore@gmail.com) for more information. Future Date: 4/29

Hymn Sing | Join us the evening of **Friday**, **May 3rd** in the sanctuary for a Hymn Sing from from **6-7pm**! We'll sing old hymns, new hymns and everything in between. While not a formal service, it'll be a great time lifting up the Lord's praise in song together. Let Mac (mac@graceandpeaceaustin.com) know if you have any questions.

Vacation Bible School | Registration is open for VBS, happening **June 24-27 from 9am-12pm**. This is for all rising Kinder-5th graders, Youth Helpers (6th-12th grade), and Adult Volunteers! RSVP by scanning the QR code below and reach out to Laura Perez (laura@graceandpeaceaustin.com) with any questions. We can't wait to welcome you to a fun week of VBS this June!



Announcements

Men's Morning Bible Study | Guys, we'd love for you to join us Monday mornings at 7:00am as we apply the gospel to our lives using the sermon discussion questions and pray for one another. We meet every week at Central Market (North Lamar) in the upstairs cafe area! For more info email Eric Buescher (edbuescher@hotmail.com).

Women's Prayer Group | Hello Ladies! Please join us in praying through the Psalms, Friday mornings at 7:00am on Zoom. We spend 30 minutes praying through the Psalms of the day and individual prayers and petitions. It is a delightful and refreshing way to start your Friday! Reach out to Jeanette Sands at jeanette.sands@gmail.com to RSVP and get the Zoom link.

Contemplative Prayer Meeting | Please join us at **8pm the first Monday of each month** for a short time (30-45 min) to intentionally pause from the busyness and anxiety of our weeks, and make time to be still, quiet our thoughts, and open ourselves to God's presence and action within. All are welcome!

Sermon Series Scripture Readings

- 4/21/2024 Revelation 12-14
- 4/28/2024 Revelation 17-19
- 5/5/2024 Revelation 20:1-15
- 5/12/2024 Revelation 21
- 5/19/2024 Revelation 22

A P R I L 21, 2024

Giving to Grace + Peace

You can give in several ways, including online through our secure website, graceandpeaceaustin.com/give. If you choose to give online, paying by bank versus credit/debit is preferred to avoid fees coming out of your tithe.

Connect on a Deeper Level

Our Parish Groups are a great way to get to know people in the church. To get connected with one of these groups, reach out to Avery Kelly: *avery@graceandpeaceaustin.com*

Grace + Peace Prayer List

If you have a prayer need and/or would like to be added to the Prayer List, please contact Laura Perez: *laura@graceandpeaceaustin.com*

Facility Requests

If you would like to rent any of our rooms, please go to: graceandpeaceaustin.com/facilityrequest

Discussion Questions

- 1. The Christian life feels like a war sometimes because it truly is. We have a spiritual enemy we face everyday. What confidence do we get from this passage that shows we don't have to fear this enemy?
- 2. Although we may not need to fear the enemy, we do need to be wise to his craftiness. How can the family of God help one another stay wise to the ways the enemy tweaks religion into false religion?
- 3. The enemy's competing empire is in the business of deceiving as many as possible with false religion that seems true (i.e. ideologies that offer hope and can't deliver). How can we confront these ideologies and point to Jesus, instead? What are some spaces in your life that would be easiest to start these conversations?

GRACE + PEACE A U S T I N

Session Contact Info: You can contact the Session at activeelders@graceandpeaceaustin.com with any questions or directly at any of their individual emails below.

Jeff Brown | jsbrown@gmail.com Brent Coley | robertbcoley@gmail.com Jon Kim | jonaikim@yahoo.com Jeff Marshall | marshall.jeff@gmail.com Ryan Motola | ryan.motola@gmail.com Marvin Olasky | marvin.olasky@gmail.com Barrett Raven | barrettraven@gmail.com Matt Williams | matthew.e.williams@gmail.com *(Peter Croft is on sabbatical in 2024)*

Diaconate Contact Info: If you or someone you know has a need (big or small!) or crisis, the G + P Diaconate wants to help care for you. Please email us at activedeacons@ graceandpeaceaustin.com. You may also seek us out to speak with one of us directly. The Diaconate members are:

Justin Barclay	Casey McMahan			
Charlie Brown	Susan Olasky			
Margaret Brown	Mary Kate Peters			
Robert Douglass	Mark Schwarz			
John Lamb				
(Lance Lawhon and Anna Marshall are on sabbatical in 2024)				

Grace + Peace Staff

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