

GCI

Grace Church of the Islands

Presbyterian Church in America

6901 CONCORD ROAD • SAVANNAH, GA 31410
912.898.0170 • WWW.GCIPCA.ORG

GCI
Events

MORNING WORSHIP

10:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:15 AM

PRAYER MEETING

4:15 PM

EVENING WORSHIP

5:00 PM

WNF - MEAL & LESSON

6:00 - 7:30 PM

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

10:00 - 12:00 PM

APRIL EVENTS...

UPCOMING EVENTS - GET CONNECTED!

- April 3 • Men's Devotional at 8:15 am
- April 3 • Fellowship Meal immediately following the AM worship service.
- April 6 • WNF (April 6, 20 and 27) at 6 pm.
- April 7 • Ladies Bible Study (7, 21 and 28)
- April 14 • Maundy Thursday worship service at 7 pm
- April 17 • Easter
- April 19 • Savannah River Presbytery meeting in Evans, GA.
- April 26 • Joint Officers meeting at 6 pm.

Grace at Home
April 2022

A monthly newsletter
from Grace Church of
the Islands PCA



GRACE CHURCH

of the Islands PCA

6901 CONCORD RD • SAVANNAH, GA 31410

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for one another, the ministry of Grace Church of the Islands, and for the universal Church. Below are a few prayer requests to focus our attention on this month:

Thanksgiving:

- Thankful to the Lord for watching over His sheep and for being the good Shepherd.

Health:

- Mac Baldwin - Pray for Mac as doctors seek to treat his medical issues. Also pray for Catherine who needs surgery on her ankle.
- Tom Moore - Pray for Tom as he is experiencing blood pressure issues.
- Jean Board - Pray for Jean as she is recovering from a stroke.
- Barbara Gustin - Pray for Barbara as she recovers from surgery.

Misc.:

- Visitors--Pray the Lord would continue to bring visitors to our worship services and give visitors a desire to join our church family.
- Miguel and Hannah D'Azevedo Pray for Miguel as he prepares for his ordination exams.

SENIOR PASTOR

J.C. Cunningham

MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Tom Taylor

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gina Harrell

RULING ELDERS

Tom Taylor - Clerk
Mark Board
Dave Roulo
Jose Veciana
Louis Watson - Sabbatical

DEACONS

David Lamson - Chair
Joel Barry - Secretary
Ron Nichols
Allan Chagan - Emeritus
Richard Towns - Emeritus

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

*Christ, the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!*

*Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” is one of the best known and exuberant of all the hymns we associate with Easter. It was written by Charles Wesley for the first service held in the Wesleyan Chapel in London in 1739 and was published under the title “Hymn for Easter Day”. The hymn had 11 verses, but only 8 are attributed to Wesley. The verses contained in our Trinity Hymnal are all Wesley’s verses.

Interestingly, the glorious tune we sing for this hymn has an anonymous composer. The “alleluias” were not present in Wesley’s original hymn but were added later to make the words a better fit for the tune. What a wonderful addition! Alleluia means, “Praise the Lord” and was often a greeting among early Christians. This tune, called “Easter Hymn” still captures the original, ornamental style, as we sing many notes for just the four syllables of “alleluia”. This adds a rich and beautiful dimension to our praise that the spoken word cannot create.

The text of “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” is worthy, not only of our joyous praise on Easter morning, but also of our meditation during this Easter month. From the proclamation that Christ has risen, to the doxology of praise in the last verse, there is much to consider in these verses. We see that the power of death is vain and annulled by Christ’s resurrection, and the sting of death is replaced by the glorious hope of life in the presence of God for eternity.

Verse four has a twofold truth, as it states, “...ours the cross, the grave, the skies.” Of course, we have victory in all these things through Christ, but if we look

*Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

*Hail, the Lord of earth and Heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail, the resurrection, thou, Alleluia!*

deeper, we can see that the whole Christian experience is summed up in those few words. We receive the forgiveness of sins as we follow Christ to the cross and accept his sacrifice in our place. Also, we follow Him to the grave where we must die to the sinful nature of our flesh. Only then can we follow him in victory in life and experience communion with God through the Holy Spirit, this being “the skies”, a “foretaste of the glory divine”!

This month, as we think on the words of our hymn, may we ask God to help us live through the experiences of Christ moment by moment. Let us follow where he has led every day and be mindful that every Sunday is a celebration of that first day of the week when Christ rose from the dead! Alleluia!

By Gina Harrell



On March 9th an over-flowing toilet dumped nearly 300 gallons of water onto the floors of the halls, sanctuary, classrooms and nursery. We had to call in the professionals. A mop and small wet-dry vac wasn't adequate for the job.

APRIL

Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Sib and Lisa McLellan
- 27 Darrell and Dot Lee

BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Sandy Henry
- 05 Aiden Garcia
- 06 Andrew Gibson
- 10 Nadya Purtell
- 11 Mark Board
- 11 Jane Hodge
- 13 John Leithart
- 26 Rachel Baldwin
- 27 Luke Cunningham

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Join us on the first Sunday of each month for a "pot luck" meal. Bring enough food for your family and two other people. The meal will occur immediately following the AM worship service.

STEWARDSHIP

YTD Tithes and Offerings needed for budget:

\$79,300

YTD Actual Tithes and Offerings received:

\$80,087

Average attendance for March:

**AM Service: 80
PM Service: 37**