



July 5, 2020

Soulbuilding
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

A n d
you, who once were
alienated and hostile in
mind, doing evil deeds, he has
now reconciled in his body of flesh
by his death, in order to present you
holy and blameless and above reproach
before him, if indeed you continue in the
faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting
from the hope of the gospel that you
heard, which has been proclaimed in
all creation under heaven, and of
which I, Paul, became a
minister.

Colossians 1:21–23

B u t
we ought always to
give thanks to God for you,
brothers beloved by the Lord,
because God chose you as the
firstfruits to be saved, through
sanctification by the Spirit and belief in
the truth. To this he called you through
our gospel, so that you may obtain the
glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then,
brothers, stand firm and hold to the
traditions that you were taught by
us, either by our spoken word
or by our letter.

2 Thessalonians 2:13–15

At the heart of the gospel, the *good news*, is a historical reality of excruciating pain and suffering on a cross in Jerusalem. Fragments of this message often pierce our lives, causing the contours of our lives to be cross-shaped.

Derek Thomas
Welsh Presbyterian pastor

S o
we do not lose
heart. Though our outer self
is wasting away, our inner self is
being renewed day by day. For this
light momentary affliction is preparing
for us an eternal weight of glory
beyond all comparison, as we look not
to the things that are seen but to the
things that are unseen. For the things
that are seen are transient, but the
things that are unseen are
eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

I am
astonished that
you are so quickly
deserting him who called
you in the grace of Christ and
are turning to a different gospel—
not that there is another one, but
there are some who trouble you
and want to distort the
gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:6–7

We cannot prevail with God but in his own strength. It is his Spirit who intercedes in us, and helps us in our weakness.

Matthew Henry
17th century British pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

People: **When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.**

Psalms 146

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

People: **whose hope is in the Lord his God,**

Leader: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

People: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

We praise the Lord, putting our trust in him

"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"



1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -



ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through
be his aid; he is blest whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his
pris - 'ner free, rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less
ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es, of my God through



all my days. Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on
God is stayed. Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - a - ted, seas and all that
eyes to see. Well Je - ho - vah loves the right - eous, and the stran - ger
all my days. O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all ag - es



man de - pend; he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing,
they con - tain; he de - liv - ers from op - press - ion,
he be - friends, helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow,
he is King; un - to him, thy God, O Zi - on,



and his pur - po - ses shall end.
righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

The call to worship is a reminder that our worship is not merely a human meeting, planned and controlled by our human agendas, but a divine appointment. By it we are called to lay aside our agendas, to realize where we are, and to yield to God our full attention and awareness.

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"



1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther;
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest,
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth,

there is no shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours-es a-bove, join with all
 thine own dear pres-ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to -

not, thy com-pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for -
 na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness, to thy great faith-ful-ness,
 day and bright hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten

ev - er wilt be.
 mer - cy, and love. Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
 thou-sand be - side!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see: all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid-ed— Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me!

The steadfast love
 of the LORD never
 ceases; his
 mercies never
 come to an end;
 they are new every
 morning; great is
 your faithfulness.
 "The LORD is my
 portion," says my
 soul, "therefore I
 will hope in him."

Lamentations 3

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls out to us that we have strayed from him

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53

We confess our turning from God to our own way and cry out for him to dwell with us

"Abide with Me"

1. A - bid with me: fast falls the e - ven -
2. Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst
3. I need thy pres - ence, ev - 'ry pass - ing
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing

3
tide; the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
smile, and, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean -
hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's
bless: ills have no weight, tears lose their bit - ter -
eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the

6
bide. When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts
while, thou hast not left me, though I've oft left
pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can
ness. Where is thy sting, death? Where, grave, thy vic - to -
skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows

9
flee, help of the help - less, a - bid with me.
thee; on to the close, Lord, a - bid with me.
be? Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bid with me.
ry? I tri - umph still; a - bid with me.
flee: in life, in death, Lord, a - bid with

12
me; in life, in death, Lord, a - bid with me.

Our sin separates us from God. Yet, in Jesus Christ we have Emmanuel, God with us. His life and death paid for our sin freeing us. Our prayers of confession are our admitting that only he has freed us from our sin.

John 1
1 Peter 2

God sings out of his great mercy to us

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

We cling to our Shepherd, the wondrous love of God displayed “O Wondrous Love”

1.O won - drous love that will not let me go, I cling to
2.O won - drous love that's come to dwell in me, Lord, who am

you with all my strength and soul, yet if my hold should ev - er
I, that I should come to know your ten - der voice as - sur - ing

me fail, your won - drous love will nev - er let me go.
this won - drous love will nev - er let me go.

I'm rest - ing in the ev - er - last - ing arms, in the ev - er - faith - ful heart,

the Shep - herd of my life. You'll car - ry me on your might - y wings of grace,

keep - ing me un - til the day I look in - to your eyes.

3.O won - drous love that sings of Cal - va - ry, the sweet - est
4.O won - drous love that rush - es o - ver me, I can't es -

sound this sin - ner's ev - er known: the song of your re - deem - ing
cape this riv - er's glo - rious flow; you o - ver - whelm my days with

Son, whose won - drous love will nev - er let me go.
good: your won - drous love will nev - er let me go.

But God shows his
love for us in that
while we were still
sinners, Christ
died for us.
Romans 5

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

Acts 14

¹Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ²But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. ⁵When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, ⁶they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, ⁷and there they continued to preach the gospel.

⁸Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. ¹¹And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" ¹²Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. ¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, ¹⁵"Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. ¹⁶In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." ¹⁸Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

¹⁹But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. ²⁰But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. ²¹When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. ²³And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

In Scripture we not only hear the Word of God, we also find the Word made flesh in Jesus Christ. So we fill our worship and our lives with his Word that we would constantly be drawn to God through Jesus Christ.

²⁴Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. ²⁵And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, ²⁶and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. ²⁷And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸And they remained no little time with the disciples.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Soulbuilding

The Church that God Built

All Christian preaching and teaching must involve not just the proclamation of Christian doctrine but also the telling of "how much the Lord has done".

Robert Stein

We commit ourselves to God wholly and completely knowing that it is his work that strengthens our souls “He Will Hold Me Fast”

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the
2. Those he saves are his de - light, Christ will hold me fast; pre - cious
3. For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; jus - tice

tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast. I could nev - er
in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast. He'll not let my
has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast. Raised with him to

keep my hold through life's fear - ful path; for my love is of - ten
soul be lost; his Prom - is - es shall last; bought by him at such a
end - less life, he will hold me fast 'til our faith is turned to

cold; he must hold me fast.
cost, he will hold me fast. He will hold me fast, he will hold me
sight, when he comes at last!

fast; for my Sav - ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.
John 6

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

The Lord's Supper is a physical action, established by Jesus, through which God acts to nourish, sustain, comfort, challenge, teach, and assure us. The celebration of the Lord's Supper nourishes our faith and stirs our imaginations to perceive the work of God and the contours of the gospel more clearly.

God strengthens our souls as we proclaim and rest in the death of Christ by celebrating the Lord's Supper

We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized followers of Jesus Christ, under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup, you proclaim that you are in covenant relationship with God, that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to one of the elders after the service. Wine and bread are the elements of the supper as instituted by Jesus Christ and so we follow his example.

Romans 8:1–5, 12-18

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit...

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

We give our tithes and offerings to declare the faith in which we continue

Elder: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

People: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Elder: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Elder: And who is this Christ that died and was raised?

People: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, by whom all things were created, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

1 Corinthians 15

Colossians 1

We cry out to God in prayer that he, the good Shepherd, would strengthen our souls

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;
 2. We are thine; do thou be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor; ear - ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare:
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bo - soms fill:

bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, let us ear - ly turn to thee;
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, let us ear - ly turn to thee.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice ... I am the good shepherd.
 John 10

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

For from his
fullness we have all
received, grace
upon grace.
John 1

We commit ourselves to the Lord

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I raise my Eb-en-e-zer; hi-ther by thy help I'm
3. O to grace how great a debt-or dail-y I'm con-strained to
grace; streams of mer-cy, ne-ver ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est
come; and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at
be; let that grace now, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-d'ring heart to
praise. Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by
home. Je-sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering
thee. Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, prone to
flam-ing tongues a-bove; praise the mount! I'm fixed up-
from the fold of God: he, to res-cue me from
leave the God I love: here's my heart, O take and
on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love.
dang-er, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.

God declares his promise to work in all who commit themselves to him

Romans 15

Leader: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

People: Amen

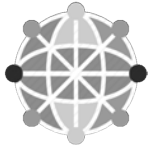
Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.



Our Connections

Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:

Rev. Per Almquist (pastor)
Brian Cosgrove
Paul Martin
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke



Credits

Cover artwork: *Continue in The Faith. Acts 14:22*, Mark Lawrence.

Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. All songs are used by permission. All rights are reserved by the copyright holders. All are used according to CCLI license #11100390.

Shannon Van Dyke, voice; Dan Crawford, voice; Millie Barnard, piano; Jake Paris, guitar, bass.

"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah" ©1982 Darwin Jordan Music. Words: Psalm 146, *The Psalter*, 1912. Music: Darwin Jordan, 1982.

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" ©1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co. Words: Thomas Chisholm, 1923. Music: William Runyan, 1923.

"Abide with Me" © 2007 Justin Smith Music. Words: Henry Lyte, 1847; alt. Music: Justin Smith, 2007.

"O Wondrous Love" ©2001 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP). Words and Music: Steve and Vikki Cook, 2001.

"He Will Hold Me Fast" ©2013 Getty Music Publishing and Matt Merker/BMI. Words: vv.1-2 Ada Habershon, alt. & words v3. Matt Merker, 1906, 2013. Music: Matt Merker, 2013.

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Public Domain. Words: attributed to Dorothy Ann Thrupp, 1836, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1859.

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Public Domain. Words: Robert Robinson, 1758. Music: Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

May your coffee be stronger than
your toddler and your resting in
God be stronger than your frantic
efforts to handle life yourself.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory