

January 6, 2019

Epiphany: God Revealed

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The glory seen in the incarnate Word was the glory which was revealed to Moses when the name of Yahweh was sounded in his ears; but now that glory has been manifested on earth in a human life, 'full of grace and truth'.

F.F. Bruce
20th century British NT scholar

And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."
John 1:32-34

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
2 Corinthians 12:9

To see the glory of God, his making himself present in this world, to see God's restoration of humanity and creation, one must look upon the flesh of Jesus Christ.

Michael Williams
Presbyterian theologian

Some things have to be believed to be seen.

Madeleine L'Engle
20th century author

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness..."
Exodus 34:5-6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
Hebrews 1:1-3

Not only do we know God by Jesus Christ alone, but we know ourselves only by Jesus Christ. We know life and death only through Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ, we do not know what is our life, nor our death, nor God, nor ourselves. Thus, without Scripture, which has Jesus alone for its object, we know nothing, and see only darkness and confusion in the nature of God, and in our own nature.

Blaise Pascal
17th century French mathematician, physicist, and theologian

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

People: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...**

Isaiah 9
John 1

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

People: **and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

We respond to his glory in worship

"Jesus, Everlasting King"



Je - sus, ev - er - last - ing King, ac - cept the tri - bute which we bring;
ac - cept the well - de - served re - nown and wear our praises as your crown.
1. O send your Spir - it to im - part
2. The glad - ness of re - demp - tion's day:
3. May ev - 'ry time of wor - ship see
4. O that the months would roll a - way
rest and re - pent - ance to our hearts,
our hearts would wish it long to stay,
your grace re - vealed more rich and free,
and bring the cor - o - na - tion day;
like the dear hour, when from a - bove,
nor let our faith for - sake its hold,
till we are raised to sing your name
the King of grace shall fill the throne
we first re - ceived your pledge of love.
nor com - forts sink, or love grow cold.
at the great sup - per of the Lamb.
with all his Fa - ther's glo - ries on.

We worship God because he made his Word flesh to reveal himself to us. This is the reality [[of the birth]] of Jesus Christ. In this man all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell so that we might receive God's grace through his death on the cross.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God reminds us of our rejection of him

John 1
Romans 3

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him..."None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Confession is not
feeling sorry for
our sin and hoping
God will do
something about it
—he already has!
This is the wonder
of Christmas. Our
confession is an
acknowledgment
that we need his
answer for our sin
and a resting in
that answer: Jesus
Christ.

We confess our sin, our rejection of him in great and small ways

We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

God declares again his grace given in Jesus Christ

John 1
Colossians 1

To all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 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... For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace... 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.

We see Christ's glory, full of grace and truth

"What Child is This?"

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

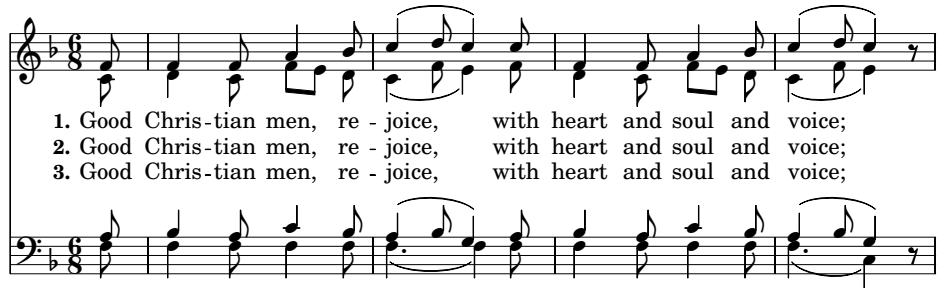
This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.


Now after Jesus
 was born in
 Bethlehem of
 Judea in the days
 of Herod the king,
 behold, wise men
 from the east
 came to
 Jerusalem, saying,
 "Where is he who
 has been born
 king of the Jews?"

Matthew 2

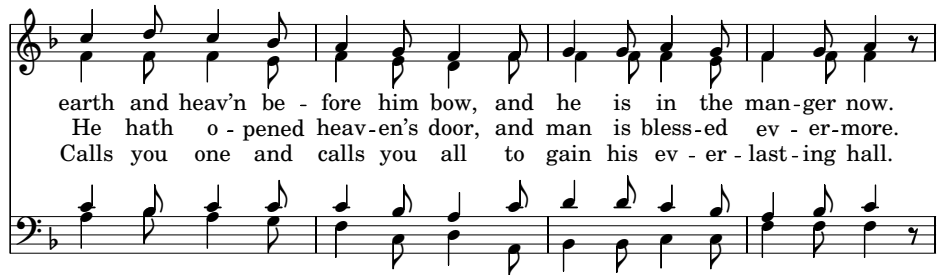
"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"




1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
2. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
3. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He hath o - pened heav-en's door, and man is bless-ed ev - er-more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 1:14-18

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Epiphany: God Revealed
50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

- calling**
lovingly summoned
- regeneration**
made alive with Christ
- repentance**
turning
- faith**
confident trust
- justification**
made right
- adoption**
beloved children
- sanctification**
making the holy holy
- perseverance**
held secure
- glorification**
the full enjoyment of God
- advent**
coming
- Immanuel**
God with us
- incarnation**
veiled in flesh the Godhead see
- Messiah/Christ**
appointed, empowered, sent
- Savior**
the great rescuer

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

John 3

We see Christ's glory, full of grace and truth

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Unison



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
 2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
 3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
 4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
 5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing he,
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
 • whom the Scrip-tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
 all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
 hymn, and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be,

of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 • now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 • praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper proclaiming the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth, and receiving from his fullness grace upon grace

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. 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 are acknowledging 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.

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The visible sign was useful for the confirmation and proof of the fact.

And such is the use of sacraments, to strengthen us in proportion to our ignorance; for we are not angels, that can behold the mysteries of God without any assistance, and therefore he raises us to himself by gradual advances.

John Calvin

Having seen his glory and received from the fullness of his grace, we come like the wise men: bearing our gifts and offering ourselves to him

"Brightest and Best of the Stars of Morning"

The offering is not a duty; it is the response of gratitude to the grace that has been given, the joyful reaction of a person to their lover who pursues them passionately.

1. Hail the blest morn', see the great Me-di-a-tor down from the
 2. Cold on his cra-dle the dew drops are shin-ing, low lies his
 3. Shall we then yield him, in cost-ly de-vo-tion, o-dors of
 4. Vain-ly we of-fer each am-ple o-bla-tion, vain-ly with

6 re-gions of glo-ry de-scend. Shep-herds go wor-ship the babe in the
 head with the beasts of the stall. An-gels a-dore him in slum-ber re-
 E-dom, and of-frings di-vine gems of the moun-tain, and pearls of the
 gifts would his fa-vor se-cure. Rich-er by the far is the heart's a-do-

12 man-ger; lo, for his guard the bright an-gels at-tend.
 clin-ing, Ma-ker and Mon-arch and Sav-ior of all.
 o-cean, myrrh from the fo-rest, and gold from the mine?
 ra-tion, dear-er to God are the prayers of the poor.

17 Bright-est and best of the stars_ of the mor-ning, dawn on our dark-ness and

23 lend_ us thine aid. Star of the east, the ho-ri-zon a-dorn-ing,

29 guide where our in-fant Re-deem-er is laid.

We come to God in prayer through Jesus Christ, acknowledging his glory and resting in the fullness of his grace

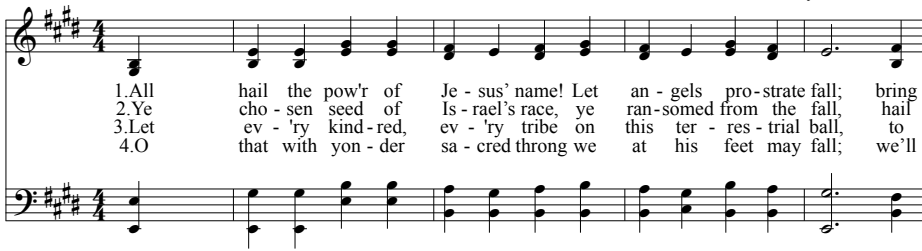
*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace,
 placing our lives and our church in his hands.*

We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory.

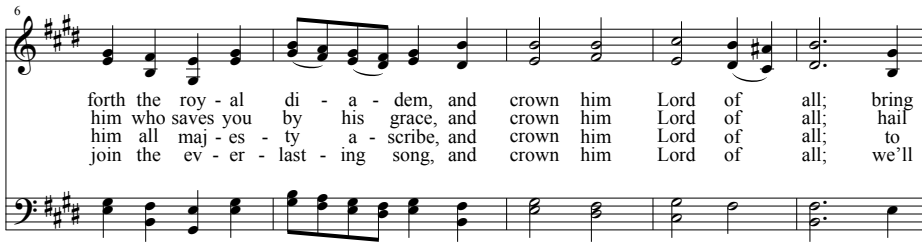
GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

Having seen the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ, we respond in joy

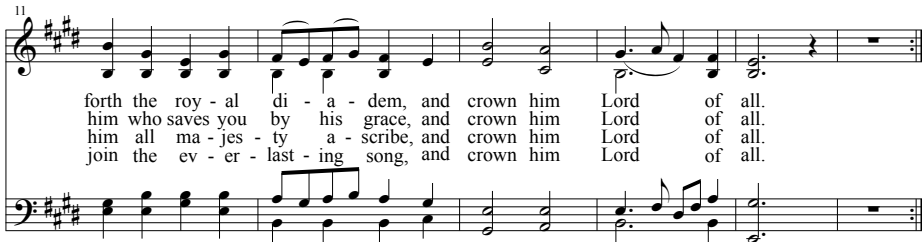
"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"



1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pro - strate fall; bring
2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall, hail
3. Let ev - 'ry kind - red, ev - 'ry tribe on this ter - res - trial ball, to
4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall; we'll



6
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all; bring
him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all; hail
him all maj - es - ty a - scribe, and crown him Lord of all; to
join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all; we'll



11
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.
him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
him all ma - jes - ty a - scribe, and crown him Lord of all.
join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2

We go out and live in the promise of God revealed in Jesus Christ

Leader: May the Word, which became flesh and dwelt among us, reveal his glory to you, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. May you receive from his fullness grace upon grace.

John 1

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 we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.

50¢ WORDS

THE VOCABULARY OF FAITH

revelation

God spoke

inspiration

God-breathed

trinity

3-1-1

holiness

separation

righteousness

the way it should be

sovereignty

ultimate kingship

providence

kingship in action

kingdom

living the reign

salvation

ultimate rescue

election

God's choosing

predestination

the love before time

calling

lovingly summoned

regeneration

made alive with Christ

repentance

turning

faith

confident trust

justification

made right

adoption

beloved children

sanctification

making the holy holy

perseverance

held secure

glorification

the full enjoyment of God

sovereignty

ultimate kingship

providence

kingship in action

kingdom

living the reign

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justification

made right

adoption

beloved children

sanctification

making the holy holy

perseverance

held secure

glorification

the full enjoyment of God

advent

coming

Immanuel

God with us

incarnation

veiled in flesh

the Godhead see

Messiah/Christ

appointed, empowered,

sent

Savior

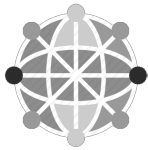
the great rescuer



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)
Kevin Kidd
Ken Morris



Credits

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Heather Kidd, voice; Millie Kidd, voice; Beth Almquist, piano

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"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" Public Domain. Words: Edward Perronet, 1779 and John Rippon, 1787 (verses 3 and 4). Music: Oliver Holden, 1793.

Among the oxen (like an ox I'm slow)
I see a glory in the stable grow
Which, with the ox's dullness might at length
Give me an ox's strength.

Among the asses (stubborn I as they)
I see my Saviour where I looked for hay;
So may my beast like folly learn at least
The patience of a beast.

Among the sheep (I like a sheep have strayed)
I watch the manger where my Lord is laid;
Oh that my baa-ing nature would win thence
Some woolly innocence!

C. S. Lewis

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory