

January 13, 2019

Love: Christ died for us

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

We are problems that want to be solved
We are children that need to be loved

Pink
American pop singer/songwriter

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence.

Erich Fromm
20th century German social psychologist

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

Ephesians 2:4

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1 John 3:1

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:7-8

"The Agonie"

Philosophers have measur'd mountains,
Fathom'd the depths of the seas, of states, and kings,
Walk'd with a staff to heav'n, and traced fountains:
But there are two vast, spacious things,
The which to measure it doth more behave:
Yet few there are that sound them; Sin and Love.

Who would know Sin, let him repair
Unto mount Olivet; there shall he see
A man so wrung with pains, that all his hair,
His skin, his garments bloody be.
Sin is that press and vice, which forceth pain
To hunt his cruel food through ev'ry vein.

Who knows not Love, let him assay
And taste that juice, which on the cross a pike
Did set again abroach, then let him say
If ever he did taste the like.
Love is that liquor sweet and most divine,
Which my God feels as blood; but I, as wine.

George Herbert
17th century British poet

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:12-13

Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair.

G.K. Chesterton
early 20th century English journalist,
novelist, and essayist

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

People: **It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;**

Psalms 136

Leader: And rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;

People: **He who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

We give thanks and worship the Lord

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"



1.O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!
 2.O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!
 3.O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!



Vast un - mea - sured, bound - less free;
 Spread his praise from shore to shore;
 Love of ev - 'ry love the best:



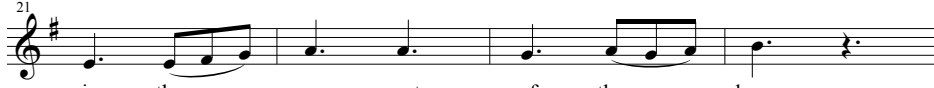
roll - ing as a might - y o - cean
 how he lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth,
 'tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing,



in its full - ness o - ver - me.
 chang - eth nev - er, nev - er - more.
 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest.



Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,
 How he watch - es o'er his loved ones,
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!



is the cur - rent of thy love;
 died to call them all his own;
 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;



lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward,
 how for them he in - ter - ced - eth,
 and it lifts me up to glo - ry,



to thy glo - rious rest a - bove.
 watch - eth o'er them the throne.
 for it lifts me up to thee.

The goal of our worship is to glorify God. Worship is not about an experience or a feeling that I receive, but about proclaiming the mystery of the God who loves his people enough to send his Son to die for us.

"Father, Long before Creation"



1. Fa - ther, long be - fore cre - a - tion thou hast cho - sen us ___ in love; ___
 2. Though the world may change its ___ fash - ion, yet our God is e'er ___ the same; ___
 3. God's com - pas - sion is my sto - ry, ___ is my boast - ing all ___ the day; ___
 4. Lov - ing Fa - ther, now be - fore thee we will ev - er praise thy love; ___



and that love so ___ deep, so ___ mov - ing, ___
 his com - pas - sion ___ and his ___ cov - 'nant ___
 mer - cy free and ___ nev - er ___ fail - ing ___
 and our songs will ___ sound un - ceas - ing ___



draws us close to Christ a - bove. ___ Still it keeps us,
 through all a - ges will ___ re - main. ___ God's own chil - dren,
 moves my will, di - rects ___ my way. ___ God so loved us,
 'til we reach our home ___ a - bove. ___ Giv - ing glo - ry,



still it keeps us ___ firm - ly fixed in Christ a - lone. ___
 God's own chil - dren must for - ev - er praise his name. ___
 God so loved us ___ that his on - ly Son ___ he gave. ___
 giv - ing glo - ry ___ to our God and to ___ the Lamb; ___



Giv - ing glo - ry, giv - ing glo - ry ___ to our God and to ___ the Lamb.

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the

Beloved.
 Ephesians 1

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God cries out to us of our sin and his love for us that deals with it

God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one...

Psalm 53
Joel 2

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

We come to him, rending our hearts, confessing our sin, and resting in his love in Jesus Christ

Blessed Lord Jesus,
before your cross I kneel and see the heinousness of my sin,
my iniquity that caused you to be 'made a curse',
the evil that excites the severity of divine wrath.
Show me the enormity of my guilt by the crown of thorns,
the pierced hands and feet,
the bruised body,
the dying cries.
Your blood is the blood of incarnate God,
its worth infinite,
its value beyond all thought.
Infinite must be the evil and guilt that demands such a price.
Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,
alive in my life,
strong in my character,
intermingling with my every thought.
Yet your compassions yearn over me,
your love endured my curse,
your mercy bore my deserved stripes.
Let me walk humbly in the lowest depths of humiliation,
bathed in your blood,
tender of conscience,
triumphing gloriously as an heir of salvation.
All this I ask, confident in the amazing love of your death and resurrection.
Amen.

We need to confess our sin before God like a child needs to own up to his mistakes before Mom and Dad, not to earn their love, but to rest in it and know it more fully.

God declares his love that endured our curse, that bore the payment for our sin

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life...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...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

John 3
1 Peter 2
Romans 5

We rest in God's love for us shown in the death of Jesus Christ

"To See the King of Heaven Fall"



1. To see the King of — hea - ven fall in an - guish to — his knees, the
 2. To know each friend will fall a - way and hea - ven's voice be still, for
 3. What took him to this wretch - ed place; what kept him on — this road? His



5 Light of Hope of — all the world now ov - er - whelmed with grief. What
 hell to have its — venge - ful day up - on Gol - go - tha's hill. No
 love for A - dam's curs - ed race, for ev - 'ry bro - ken soul. No



9 name - less hor - rors must he see, to cry out in the gar - den: "Oh
 words de - scribe the — Sav - ior's plight, to be by God for - sa - ken till
 sin too slight to — o - ver - look, no crime too great to — car - ry, all



13 take this cup a - way from me, yet not my will — but
 wrath and love are — sat - is - fied and ev - 'ry sin — is
 min - gled in this — poi - soned cup, and yet he drank it



16 yours, yet not my will — but yours."
 paid, and ev - 'ry sin — is paid.
 all. The Sav - ior drank it all.

Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 4:7-12

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Love: Christ died for us

50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

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

epiphany
God revealed

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the love of God, the giving of his Son for us, by proclaiming his death and resurrection as our only hope as we celebrate the Lord's Supper

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.

The Lord's Supper seals to the participant the great love of Christ...It assures the believing participant... that he was personally the object of that incomparable love.

Louis Berkhof

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"



1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how
 2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my
 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing: no



2 vast be - yond all meas - ure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
 sin up - on his shoul - ders; a - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
 gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his



4 make a wretch his treas - ure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss; the
 out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there un -
 death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward? I



6 Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the cho - sen One bring
 til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has brought me life; I
 can - not give an an - swer; but this I know with all my heart: his



8 man - y sons to glo - ry.
 know that it is fin - ished.
 wounds have paid my ran - som. Why



12 should I gain from his re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer; but



14 this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

"Here is Love"

1. Here is love, vast as the o - cean, lov - ing kind - ness as the
 2. On the mount of cru - ci - fix - ion, foun - tains o - pened deep and
 3. Bond and pledge of sweet com - mun - ion, all Christ's be - ne - fits di -

4 flood, when the Prince of life, our ran - som, shed for us his pre - cious blood. Who his
 wide; through the flood - gates of God's mer - cy flowed a vast and gra - cious tide. Grace and
 vine, here, ye saints, is of - fered free - ly in the bread and in the wine. Here is

9 love will not re - mem - ber? Who can cease to sing his praise? He will
 love, like migh - ty riv - ers, poured in - ces - sant from a - bove; heav - en's
 love, dis - played in splen - dor, bo - dy bro - ken, blood out - poured; signs and

13 ne - ver be for - got - ten through - out heav'n's e - ter - nal days.
 peace and per - fect jus - tice kissed a guilt - y world in love.
 seals of mer - cy of - fered at the ta - ble of the

20 Lord. Here is love, dis - played in splen - dor, bo - dy bro - ken, blood out - poured; signs and

25 seals of mer - cy of - fered at the ta - ble of the Lord.

God loves us not because Jesus died for us; rather Jesus died for us because of the Father's eternal and unconquerable love for us.
 Timothy George

In baptism God assures us that he is our God and we solemnly proclaim that we are his children by his love alone. Baptism is the celebration of this relationship, a relationship established as a covenant with us and our children through Jesus Christ.

We live in God's love for us as he assures us of his love in Christ's death for our sin and we proclaim our faith in him for our salvation and our children by baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

James Alexander Van Dyke

VOWS OF THE PARENTS

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in his behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for his salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before him a godly example, that you will pray with and for him, that you will teach him the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

VOW OF THE CHURCH

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by him. In worship, God reminds us of the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free. In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods for God's service.

We live in God's love, loving him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength as we give our tithes and offerings to our beloved "Be Thou My Vision"

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright hea - ven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my great Fa - ther and I thy true son;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wa - king or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 High King of hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all.

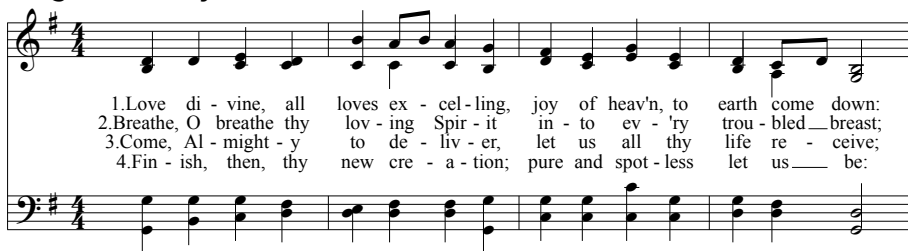
As we pray, we live in God's love, coming to him as beloved children to their Father, longing for his love to be visible to us and all around us in every facet of our lives

*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

We sing out to live in the love of God, that love divine, all loves excelling
through all eternity

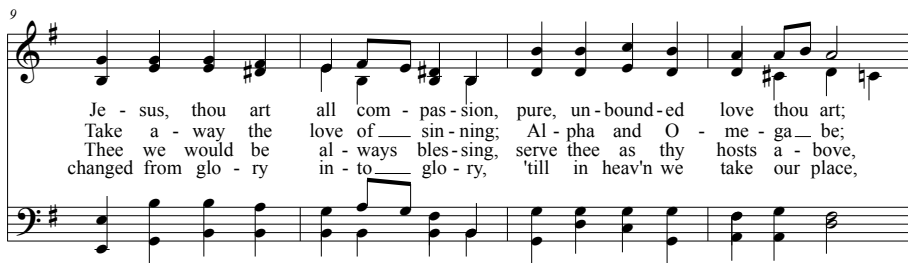
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled__breast;
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us__be:



5
fix in us thy hum - ble__dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies__crown.
let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver more thy tem - ples leave.
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in__thee;



9
Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way the love of__sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga__be;
Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, 'till in heav'n we take our place,



13
vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
End of faith, as its Be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.
pray, and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glor - ry in thy per - fect__love.
'till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and__praise.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

John 15

Ephesians 3

The benediction
sends us on our
way with a parting
word of God's
grace and
blessing,
reminding us that
we go in the
power of his
promise to be our
God.

We leave with God's promise of his love in Christ for life for all eternity

Leader: Now may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

salvation

ultimate rescue

election

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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

epiphany

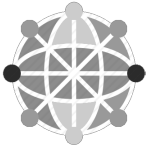
God revealed



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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Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Jake Paris, *guitar*; Beth Almquist, *violin*

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!" Public Domain. Words: Samuel Trevor Francis, 1875. Music: traditional Welsh melody adapted by Thomas John Williams, 1890.

"Father, Long Before Creation" ©2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings (ASCAP) admin. by the Loving Company. Words: from a Chinese Hymn. Translated: Francis Johnson, 1953. Music: Andrew Osenga, 2005

"To See the King of Heaven Fall (Gethsemane)" ©2009 Thankyou Music. Words & Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2009.

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"Be Thou My Vision" Public Domain. Ancient Irish hymn.

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley, 1747. Music John Zundel, 1870, alt. 1990.

Dear God,

I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Nan

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory