

**February 10, 2019**

**Grace: Love Undeserved**

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

There is no such thing as grace.  
There is only Christ, who is gracious.

Sinclair Ferguson  
Scottish Presbyterian  
theologian and pastor

Grace is indeed needed to turn a man  
into a saint; and he who doubts it does  
not know what a saint or a man is.

Blaise Pascal  
17<sup>th</sup> century French mathematician,  
physicist, and theologian

But if it is by  
grace, it is no longer  
on the basis of works;  
otherwise grace would  
no longer be grace.

**Romans 11:6**

But 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 the law was given  
through Moses; grace and truth  
came through Jesus Christ.

**John 1:12-14, 16-17**

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, keeping  
steadfast love for thousands, forgiving  
iniquity and transgression and sin, but who  
will by no means clear the guilty, visiting  
the iniquity of the fathers on the children  
and the children's children, to the  
third and the fourth generation."

**Exodus 34:6-7**

F o r  
the grace of God  
has appeared, bringing  
salvation for all people,  
training us to renounce  
ungodliness and worldly  
passions, and to live self-  
controlled, upright, and  
godly lives in the  
present age.

**Titus 2:11-12**

God's grace cannot be overemphasized—  
the problem is that our idea of grace is a  
"that's okay" message rather than God's  
idea of grace—consistent, ever-faithful,  
relentless, constantly pursuing, lavish,  
extravagant, unrestrained, and furious love.

Frank Johnson  
Assemblies of God minister

The life of faith is a daily exploration of  
the constant and countless ways in which  
God's grace and love are experienced.

Eugene Peterson  
Presbyterian pastor and author

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

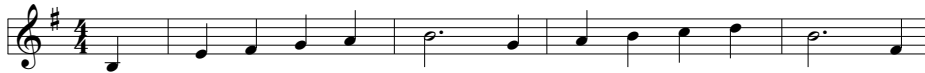
**People: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**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.**

Psalm 103  
Psalm 146

## We praise the Lord, singing the wonders of his grace "The God of Abraham Praise"



1.The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove, An -  
2.The God of A-braham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand from  
3.He by him - self has sworn, I on his oath de - pend; I  
4.The whole tri - um - phant host gives thanks to God on high; "Hail



5cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love. Je -  
earth I rise, and seek the joys of his right hand. I  
shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend. I  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry. Hail



9 ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed; I  
all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r, and  
shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore, and  
Ab - braham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays; all



13 bow and bless the sa - cred name, for - ev - er blest.  
him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er more.  
might and ma - jes - ty are - thine, and end - less praise.

God's call to worship reminds us that he alone is worth worshipping. He alone is great beyond our comprehension. And he calls us to come to him and receive his gifts of grace through Jesus Christ.

# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

"Come, Ye Sinners"

"Come to me, all  
who labor and are  
heavy laden, and I  
will give you rest.

Take my yoke  
upon you, and  
learn from me, for I  
am gentle and  
lowly in heart, and  
you will find rest  
for your souls. For  
my yoke is easy,  
and my burden is  
light."

Matthew 11



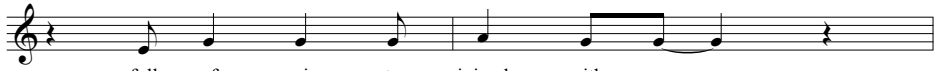
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and wretch - ed,  
2. Come, ye need - y, come and wel - come,  
3. Come, ye wea - ry, hea - vy la - den,  
4. Let not science make you lin - ger,  
5. Lo! the in - car - nate God, a - scend - ed,



weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;  
God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
bruised and bro - ken by the fall;  
nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;  
pleads the mer - it of his blood;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
all the fit - ness he re - qui - res  
ven - ture on him, ven - ture whol - ly,



full of pi - ty joined with power.  
ev - r'y grace that brings you nigh.  
you will ne - ver come at all.  
is to feel your need of him.  
let no oth - er trust in - trude.



He is a - ble, he is a - ble,  
With - out mon - ey, with - out mon - ey,  
Not the righ - teous, not the righ - teous;  
This he gives you, this he gives you,  
None but Je - sus, none but Je - sus



he is will - ing; doubt no more.  
come to Je - sus Christ and buy.  
sin - ners Je - sus came to call.  
'tis the Spir - it's ris - ing beam.  
can do help - less sin - ners good.

### **God cries out that our sin has separated us from him**

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear...We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Isaiah 59  
Hebrews 4

### **We draw near to the throne of grace with confidence, confessing our sin, receiving mercy, and finding grace to help in our need**

O perfect and holy God,  
By the power of your Spirit I learn that  
The more I do, the worse I am,  
The more I think I know, the less I know,  
The more holiness I believe I have, the more sinful I am.

O Lord,  
I have a wild heart and cannot stand before you.  
How little I love your truth and ways!  
I neglect you by thinking I have done enough.  
I hide from you behind things of this world  
Even behind religion and doing what you command.  
My doubts, struggles, and sins make me afraid to come to you.

But you are my gracious God.  
In your mercy you sent your Son  
To be born and to live under the law  
To save me who has broken your law,  
And to adopt me as your child and heir.

So even as I forget so easily the grace you have given  
And your truths seep away,  
Give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.  
Amen.

### **God declares his grace by sending his Son for us**

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us... When the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Psalms 103  
Titus 3

The Bible says we are all dead in our sins. Our sin has earned us death and there is nothing we can do to change that. There simply is no life in us. But the gospel is that it does not end there. In Jesus Christ we have the free gift of God: eternal life with him in the immeasurable riches of his grace.

**We join the everlasting song praising the grace that saved sinners like us**

"Amazing Grace"

1. A - ma - zing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my  
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -  
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing

7  
 wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am  
 fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that grace ap -  
 rea - dy come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus  
 as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's

12  
 found, was blind, but now I see.  
 pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 far, and grace will lead me home.  
 praise than when we'd first be - gun.

In him we have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.  
 Ephesians 1

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# GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—<sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:1-10

**Sermon**

**Grace: Love Undeserved**  
50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

Rev. Per Almquist

**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

**love**

Christ died for us

**hope**

assured confidence

# We boast in the grace of God alone

“Not What My Hands Have Done”

Slowly



1. Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - y soul;  
 2. Thy work a - lone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;  
 3. Thy grace a - lone, O God, to me can par - don speak;  
 4. I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;



not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.  
 thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace with - in.  
 thy pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can this sore bond - age break.  
 he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.



Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;  
 Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee  
 No oth - er work, save thine, no oth - er blood will do;  
 Tis he who sav - eth me, and free - ly par - don gives;



not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.  
 can rid me of this dark un - rest, and set my spir - it free!  
 no strength, save that which is di - vine, can bear me safe - ly through.  
 I love be - cause he lov - eth me, I live be - cause he lives,



I love be-cause he lov-eth me, I live be-cause he lives!

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



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# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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## **God seals his grace to us in Jesus Christ 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.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. 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. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1

A sacrament is a sign of participation in saving grace. It marks not simply the presence and work of God, but his application of salvation to sinners.  
Edmund Clowney

Gratitude...is a  
response to grace.

The  
compassionate life  
is a grateful life,  
and actions born  
out of gratefulness  
are not compulsive  
but free, not  
somber but joyful,  
not fanatical but  
liberating.

Henri Nouwen

**We live in the light and power of his grace as we give our tithes and offerings**

*We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith,  
putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim,  
that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.*

**In prayer we draw near to the throne of grace with confidence to find 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

## We rejoice that the grace of God binds our wandering hearts to him

"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 - d'ring  
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.

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

## We go out with the promise of his grace

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed you in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose you in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

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.

Ephesians 1, 6



# 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

**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

**love**

Christ died for us

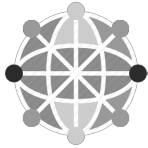
**hope**

assured confidence



## 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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Dan Crawford, *voice*; Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

"The God of Abraham Praise" Public Domain. Words: Thomas Olivers, 1770. Music: Jewish melody arr. by Meyer Lyon, 1770.

"Come, Ye Sinners" ©2000 Detuned Radio Music (ASCAP). Words: Joseph Hart, 1759. Music: Matthew S. Smith, 2000.

"Amazing Grace" Public Domain. Words; John Newton, 1779. Music: traditional American melody, arr. by Edwin Excell, 1900.

"Not What My Hands Have Done" ©2001 Kevin Twit Music. Words: Horatius Bonar, 1861, alt. Music: Kevin Twit, 2001.

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

You see, at the center of all religions is the idea of Karma. You know, what you put out comes back to you: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, or in physics—in physical laws—every action is met by an equal or an opposite one... And yet, along comes this idea called Grace to upend all that "as you reap, so you will sow" stuff. Grace defies reason and logic. Love interrupts, if you like, the consequences of your actions, which in my case is very good news indeed, because I've done a lot of stupid stuff... But I'd be in big trouble if Karma was going to finally be my judge... It doesn't excuse my mistakes, but I'm holding out for Grace. I'm holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don't have to depend on my own religiosity... It's a powerful idea, grace. It really is. We hear so much of karma and so little of grace. Every religion teaches about karma and what you put out you will receive. And even Christianity, which is supposed to be about grace, has turned redemption into good manners, or the right accent, or good works, or whatever. I just can't get over grace.

Bono

Irish singer-songwriter for U2

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory