

April 28, 2019

Church: The Fullness of Christ

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

One hundred religious persons knit into a unity by careful organization do not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team. The first requisite is life, always.

A.W. Tozer
20th century pastor and author

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:4-5

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

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.

Colossians 1:18

All is built on Christ, supported by Christ, and the lie or shape of the continuing building is determined by Christ, the cornerstone.

Max Turner
British NT scholar

It is the believer's relation to Christ that puts him in connection with the Church; not his connection with the Church that puts him into a saving relation to Christ.

George Smeaton
19th century Scottish theologian

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

Because they belong to the separated One, his people are separate: a redeemed people, cleansed of sin and drawn closer than the angels to the love of the righteous Father.

Edmund Clowney
Presbyterian pastor and theologian

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 for his love endures forever

"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!

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

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

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

17. 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!

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

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

29. to thy glo - rious rest a - bove.
watch - eth o'er them from 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

Christ tells us he came not for the righteous, but sinners

And as Jesus reclined at table in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2

We confess we are the sinners for whom Christ came

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.

Prayers of confession express the truth that we are not righteous, that we are in need of redemption. For our worship to be realistic, it must deal with the cries of our hearts—the cries of people struggling with their sin.

God declares that he has redeemed us, ransomed us from our sin to be his children

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4

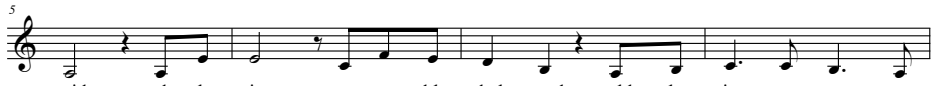
“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
Acts 2

We rest in God's own Son, born of woman, born under the law to redeem us

“Who is This, So Weak and Helpless”



1. Who is this, so weak and help - less, child of low - ly He - brew
 2. Who is this, a Man of Sor - rows, walk - ing sad - ly life's hard
 3. Who is this? Be - hold him shed - ding drops of blood up - on the
 4. Who is this that hangs there dy - ing while the rude world scoffs and



maid, rude - ly in a sta - ble shel - tered, cold - ly in a man - ger
 way, home - less, wea - ry, sigh - ing, weep - ing o - ver sin and Sa - tan's
 ground! Who is this, des - pised, re - ject - ed, mocked, in - sult - ed, beat - en,
 scorns, num - bered with the mal - e - fac - tors, torn with nails, and crowned with



laid? 'Tis the Lord _____ of all cre - a - tion, _____ who this
 sway? 'Tis our God, _____ our glo - rious Sav - ior, _____ who a -
 bound? 'Tis our God, _____ who gifts and grac - es _____ on his
 thorns? 'Tis our God _____ who lives for - ev - er _____ 'mid the



won - drous path _____ has trod; he is God _____ from ev - er -
 bove _____ the star - ry sky is for us _____ a place pre -
 church _____ is pour - ing down; who shall smite _____ in ho - ly
 shin - ing ones on high, in the glo - rious gold - en



last - ing, and to ev - er - last - ing God.
 par - ing, where no tear can dim the eye.
 ven - geance all his foes be - neath his throne.
 cit - y, reign - ing ev - er - last - ing - ly.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

1 ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

2 ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:22-23,
2:19-22

Sermon

Church: The Fullness of Christ

50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

Rev. Per Almquist

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

grace

love undeserved

sin

not the way it's
supposed to be

redemption

ransomed

atonement

setting things right

propitiation

wrath lovingly satisfied

reconciliation

enemies no longer

forgiveness

sin's double cure

resurrection

life victorious

Perhaps the most widely used statement of the Christian faith, the Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea in ad 325. It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and the person of Christ.

We stand together and declare that we are the Church, founded upon Jesus Christ

The Nicene Creed

Leader: What is it we believe about God, the Father?

People: **We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

Leader: What is it we believe about Jesus Christ?

People: **We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

Leader: What is it we believe about the Holy Spirit?

People: **And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

"The Church's One Foundation"



1. The chur - ch's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord; she
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth, her
 3. 'Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war, she
 4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One, and



is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word: from
 char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth: one
 waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - e - ver more; 'til
 my - stic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won: O



heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride; with
 ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food, and
 with the vi - sion glor - ious her long - ing eyes are blessed, and
 hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we, like

1. 2. 3.



his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 the great church vic - tor - ious shall be the church at rest.
 them, the meek and low - ly, on



high may dwell, that they will dwell, that we will dwell with thee.

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation sin Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'
 Isaiah 28

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

Filled with Christ, we live as his Church, giving ourselves, our tithes, and our offerings to him

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.

Our main goal in prayer is to delve into a deeper relationship with the God who loves us, not to control our environment or our circumstances.

We cry out in prayer to be the Church of Christ, his dwelling place

"Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"



1. Je - sus, with thy church a - bide; be her Sav - ior,
2. Keep her life and doct - rine pure; grant her pa - tience
3. May she one in doct - rine be, one in truth and
4. May she guide the poor and blind, seek the lost un -



Lord, and guide, while on earth her faith is tried:
to en - dure, trust - ing in thy prom - ise sure:
char - i - ty, win - ning all to faith in thee:
til she find, and the bro - ken - heart - ed bind:



we be - seech thee, hear us. we be - seech thee, hear us.
we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.
we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.
we be - seech thee, hear us, we be - seech thee, hear us.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper to strengthen us to live as the fullness of Christ by his 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 with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge 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.

1 Peter 2:4–10

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Communion is, of all the actions of worship, a uniquely corporate event. We can sing alone, or study Scripture alone, or pray alone, but nobody does Communion alone for it is our celebration that we are united to Jesus Christ, and in him, to each other.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We stand as the Church and ask for his grace to live as the fullness of Christ

"We are God's People"

Know that the
LORD, he is God!
It is he who made
us, and we are his;
we are his people,
and the sheep of
his pasture.
Psalm 100

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

We receive the blessing of God upon his people

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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.*

Numbers 6

500 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

grace

love undeserved

sin

not the way
it's supposed to be

redemption

ransomed

atonement

setting things right

propitiation

wrath lovingly satisfied

reconciliation

enemies no longer

forgiveness

sin's double cure

resurrection

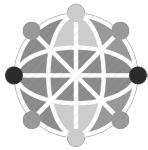
life victorious



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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- “We Are God’s People” ©1976 Fred Bock Music Co. Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976; Music: Johannes Brahms, 1876, arr. Fred Bock, 1976.

The Bride

Lecrae

hip-hop singer, song-writer

Yeah she may look gritty
When her man come back she gone look so pretty -
She the Church
You might see her acting crazy, be patient with her tho
cause she still God's baby - She the Church
Before you dis her get to know her, Jesus got a thing fo
her and died just to show her - She the Church
She ain't bricks and buildings
She all of God's people Men women and children

[Verse 1]

A building of beings being constructed
Christ is the cornerstone, foundation build on another
and you's a goner holmes
She' built on em, supported by him, conformed to him,
now she's a body of bodies who transform through him
A temple that breathes we are the halls,
We are the floor board or more we are the walls
Manifold wisdom of God no longer a mystery
The church is the pinnacle of our salvific history
One flesh union homie
The Tri-union is glorified through our corporatized
communion
Still the present reality is she was born a casualty
though she's made alive
She's affected by depravity
Once lived in sin and enslaved by her lust and
Folks catch her slippin and they turn away disgusted
She's a work in progress Christ is the head of her
And He wash her clean with the words that he done
said to her
She's already pretty but she's really not dressed and
sometimes she look silly but she's far from a mess
Yes, please so don't be dissin cause Jesus done paid
grip an
And if you didn't then should caller her Misses. I'm
talking bout the church

[Verse 2]

Her name is ecclesia meaning the the assembly
Bows to (the Trinity) No other Divinity
A body family and community she is all one
But on earth you see her in congregational small ones

A microcosm or a small scale example
But yes it is the church even though it's just a sample
Invisible spiritual
Physical visible
Not a brick temple never that simple
This a not a building
She is not bricks
She's a world changer but ain't bout getting rich
Perpetrating fakes cause a lot of folks to hate
Plus her hands get dirty and her feet get scraped
And sometimes her body parts start acting outa place
Legs tryna be arms
Arms thinking they the face
But she'll never be replaced with a one man band or a
small Taliban with no body in command

[Verse 3]

Some don't get it so they hate
They say she's on a paper chase they say she's really
fake
So they go start a ministry so they can do the work
But they don't understand how Jesus feel about His
church
And yeah they make disciples
They got plenty conversions
They take care of the widows and the orphans they be
workin
But none of them are churchin
No church structure
No elders and no discipline
They don't have a conductor
And they so they don't submit
But quite a few of them baptize
People how I pray that you'd look at this thing from
God's eyes
Take responsibility inside the whole council not just the
area where you might have a mouthful
Who should people submit to
Who will conduct the discipline
If excommunicated what body will they be missing
then
Look at Ephesians 4 where Paul gets practical
1st timothy and Titus if you thinking I'm irrational

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory