

May 5, 2019

Heaven: Dwelling Place of God
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

There is a river
whose streams make
glad the city of God, the
holy habitation of the Most
High. God is in the midst of
her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when
morning dawns.
Psalm 46:4-5

"Oh that my
words were written! Oh
that they were inscribed in a
book! Oh that with an iron pen and
lead they were engraved in the rock
forever! For I know that my Redeemer
lives, and at the last he will stand upon
the earth. And after my skin has been
thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall
see God, whom I shall see for
myself, and my eyes shall
behold, and not another."
Job 19:23-27

The souls of departed saints with Christ in heaven, shall have Christ as it were unbosomed unto them, manifesting those infinites riches of love towards them, that have been there from eternity; and they shall be enabled to express their love to him, in an infinitely better manner than ever they could while in the body. Thus they shall eat and drink abundantly, and swim in the ocean of love, and be eternally swallowed up in the infinitely bright, and infinitely mild and sweet, beams of divine love; eternally receiving that light, eternally full of it, and eternally compassed round with it, and everlasting reflecting it back again to its foundations.

Jonathan Edwards

18th century American Puritan pastor and theologian

Both believers and unbelievers, Christians and non-Christians, both want heaven. But the believer prefers heaven above earth, whereas the unbeliever only prefers heaven over hell, and consequently he will not have heaven.

Richard Baxter

17th century English Puritan pastor

For we
know that if the tent
that is our earthly home is
destroyed, we have a building
from God, a house not made
with hands, eternal in the
heavens. For in this tent we
groan, longing to put on
our heavenly dwelling
2 Corinthians 5:1-2

Since God will make the new earth his dwelling place, and since where God dwells there heaven is, we shall then continue to be in heaven while we are on the new earth. For heaven and earth will then no longer be separated, as they are now, but will be one.

Anthony Hoekema

20th century theologian

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!

People: **Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**

Revelation 1, 4, 11

Leader: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

People: **We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.**

We join the heavenly hosts in praising the great and awesome name of our holy God

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

1. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y! Ear - ly in the
2. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee, cast - ing down their
3. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee, though the eye of
4. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y! All thy works shall

morn - ing our song shall rise to thee. Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
gold - en crowns a-round the glass - y sea; cher-u - bim and ser-a-phem
sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see, on-ly thou art ho - ly;
praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Mer-ci - ful and might-y! God in three Per-sons, bless-ed Trin - i - ty!
fall-ing down be - fore thee, who wert, and art, and ev - er-more shalt be.
there is none be - side thee per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
Mer-ci - ful and might-y! God in three Per-sons, bless-ed Trin - i - ty!

As the church gathers in worship of our God, we get a foretaste, a glimpse, of the eternal reality of our worship. Our worship now blends with the songs and hallelujahs of those surrounding the throne of God in heaven.

“Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship”



1. Heaven-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship, "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly!" cry;
2. All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion join to sing the Sa-vior's worth;



"He who is, who was, and will be, God Al-migh-ty, Lord Most High.
Lamb of God whose blood has bought us, kings and priests to reign on Earth.



Praise and ho-nor, power and glo-ry be to him who reigns a-lone."
Wealth and wis-dom, power and glo-ry, ho-nor, might, do-min-ion, praise



We, with all his hands have fa-shioned fall be-fore the Fa-ther's throne.
now be his from all his crea-tures and to e-ver-last-ing days!

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God declares what he requires and our failure to do it

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD...? Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

Deuteronomy 10
1 John 1

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us

We confess the truth: our sin

O God of grace,
in Jesus Christ you have become our sin
that we might become your righteousness.
You have clothed us with a bridegroom's robe,
and decked us with jewels of holiness.
But in our Christian walk we are still in rags;
our best prayers are stained with sin;
our penitential tears are so much impurity;
our confessions of wrong are so many aggravations of sin.
We repent of our repentance.

We have no robe to bring to cover our sins,
no loom to weave our own righteousness;
We stand always clothed in filthy garments,
and by grace are always receiving a change of raiment.

We continually go into the far country,
always returning home as prodigals,
always saying, "Father, forgive me,"
and you are always bringing forth the best robe,
the robe of Christ's righteousness.

Every morning let us wear it,
every evening return in it,
go out to the day's work in it,
be married in it,
be found in death in it,
stand before the great white throne in it,
and enter heaven in it shining as the sun.

Thank you, Father, for the celebration that attends
our being found by your grace.

May we rejoice with you
at the finding of each lost sheep,
each lost coin,
at every prodigal that comes home
and receives new raiment from you.

Draw us into that heavenly celebration
through Jesus Christ,
the good shepherd who found us.

Amen.

God's glory and holiness confront us with our lack of holiness, our brokenness, our sin. This drives us to Jesus Christ. He took the judgment for our sin. So we confess our sin and cry out in sorrow over it and what it caused, and find ourselves rejoicing in God's free grace in his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1
2 Corinthians 5

God declares our hope: Jesus Christ; God declares our glory: his righteousness

Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ... knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot... For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer"



I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, whose price - less blood has ran - somed
I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er; my life he bought, my love he
I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who car - ries me on ea - gle's



5 me. Mine was the sin that drove the bit - ter nails and hung him on that judge - ment
owns. I have no long - ings for a - no - ther; I'm sat - is - fied in him a -
wings. He crowns my life with lov - ing - kind - ness; his tri - umph song I'll ev - er



9 tree. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who crushed the pow'r of sin and
lone. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, his faith - ful - ness my stand - ing
sing. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who waits for me at gates of



13 death. My on - ly Sav - ior be - fore the ho - ly Judge: the Lamb who is my right - eous -
place. Though foes are might - y and rush up - on me, my feet are firm, held by his
gold. And when he calls me, it will be par - a - dise: his face for - ev - er to be -



17 ness, the Lamb who is my right - eous - ness.
grace, my feet are firm, held by his grace.
hold, his face for - ev - er to be - hold. last time, repeat from *

redeem
[ri'dēm]

gain or regain
possession of
(something) in
exchange for
payment; buy
back

God is our
redeemer, the one
who bought us
back from the
wages of our sin
(death) by paying
those wages in the
death of Christ.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Revelation 22:1-8

Sermon

Heaven: Dwelling Place of God

50¢ Words: The Vocabulary of Faith

Rev. Per Almquist

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

church
the fullness of Christ

“Blessed indeed,”
says the Spirit,
“that they may rest
from their labors.”
Revelation 14

We experience heaven as we sing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost “For All the Saints”



1. For all the saints who from their
2. Thou wast their rock, their for- tress,
3. O may thy sold- iers faith- ful,
4. The gol- den eve- ning brigh- tens
5. But lo! there breaks a yet more
6. From earth's wide bounds, from o- cean's



la- bors rest, who thee by faith be- fore the
and their might; thou, Lord, their Cap- tain in the
true, and bold fight as the saints who no- bly
in the west; soon, soon to faith- ful war- riors
glo- rious - day; the saints tri- um- phant rise in
far- thest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the



world con- fessed; thy name, O Je- sus, be for-
well - fought fight; thou, in the dark- ness drear, their
fought of old, and win with them the vic- tor's
comes their rest; sweet is the calm of par- a
bright ar- ray; the King of glo- ry pass- es
count- less host, sing- ing to Fa- ther, Son, and



e - - ver blessed: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
one true light: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
crown of gold: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
dise the blest: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu!
on his way: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
Ho - ly Ghost: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le



lu - - - - - ia.



GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We live heaven on earth, reflecting the glory of God in every nook and cranny of our lives as we give ourselves, our tithes, and our offerings to God

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.

We live heaven on earth, crying out in prayer to the God who dwells with us

*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.*

Prayer is more
than a wish turned
heavenward: it is
the voice of faith
directed Godward.
Billy Graham

The sacraments are reminders of the historical reality of Christ's redemption. They embody concretely the reality of our faith... By faith the sacraments present to our senses the touch of the unseen, the foretaste of heaven's feast with the Lord.
Edmund Clowney

God gives us a taste of heaven—his love, life, and light as he dwells with us—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 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.

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

1. My Je - sus I love thee, I know thou art mine; for
2. I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me and
3. I'll love thee in life, and I'll love thee in death; I'll
4. In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light, I'll

6 thee all the fol - lies, of sin I re - sign. My
pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree. I
praise thee as long as thou lend - est me breath; and
6 ev - er a - dore thee in hea - ven so bright; and

10 gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou; if
love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow; if
say when the death - dew, lies cold on my brow: if
10 sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow: if

14 ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
14 ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

19 Je - sus, 'tis now, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"



1. Glor-ious things of thee are spo-ken, Zi - on ci - ty of our God;
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa-ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,
 3. Blest in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on, washed in the Re-deem-er's blood,
 4. Sa - vior, if of Zi - on's ci - ty, I, through grace, a mem-ber am,



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode.
 well sup - plies thy sons and daugh-ters, and all fear of want re - move.
 Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly on makes them kings and priests to God.
 let the world de - ride or pi - ty, I will glor - y in thy name.



On the Rock of A - ges found-ed, what can shake thy sure re -
 Who can faint, while such a ri - ver ev - er flows their thirst to
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to reign as
 Fad - ing is the world-ling's plea-sure, all his boast - ed pomp and



pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed,
 quench? Grace which, like the Lord, the gi - ver,
 kings, and as priests, his sol - emn prais - es,
 show; sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sure



thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 ne - ver fails from age to age.
 each for a thank off - 'ring brings.
 none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Zion

Hebrew: "Fortress"

Used in the Old Testament for Jerusalem. In both Old and New Testaments it is used to refer to God's heavenly city, the dwelling place of God's people.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We look to the promise of God, our eternal destiny in Christ, heaven

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

On Jor - dan's stor - my banks I stand, and
 All o'er those wide ex - ten - ded plains shines
 No chill - ing winds nor pois - onous breath can
 When shall I reach that hap - py place, and

cast a wish - ful eye to
 one e - ter - nal day; there
 reach that health - ful shore;
 be for - ev - er blessed; when

Ca - naan's fair and hap - py land, where
 God the Son for - ev - er reigns, and
 sick - ness, sor - row, pain, and death are
 shall I see my Fa - ther's face, and

1 my pos - ses - sions lie. I am
 2, 3, 4 **Chorus:** scat - ters night a way.
 felt and feared no more.
 in his bos - om rest.

bound, I am bound, I am bound for the prom - ised Land. I am
 bound, I am bound, I am bound for the prom - ised Land.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
 Revelation 21

Ephesians 1, 6

We receive the blessing of God, every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

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 the gospel calls us
 as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*

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

church

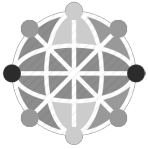
the fullness of Christ



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

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.

Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*,

- "Holy, Holy, Holy" Public Domain. Words: Reginald Heber, 1826. Music: John Dykes, 1861.
- "Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship" ©1975 Hope Publishing Co. Words: based on Revelation 4-5, Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1972. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824.
- "I Will Glory in My Redeemer" ©2000 Sovereign Grace Worship. Words and Music: Steve and Vikki Cook, 2000.
- "For All The Saints" ©1997 Christopher Miner Music. Words: William How, 1864, 1875. Music: Christopher Miner, 1997.
- "My Jesus, I Love Thee" Public Domain. Words: William Featherstone, 1864. Music: Adoniram Gordon, 1876.
- "Satisfied" ©1997 Karl Digerness Music. Words: Clara T. Williams, 1875. Music: Karl Digerness, 1997.
- "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" ©1998 Kevin Twit Music. Words: John Newton, 1779. Music: Kevin Twit, 1998.
- "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" ©1997 Christopher Miner Music. Words: Samuel Stennett, 1787. Music: Christopher Miner, 1997.

Heaven—
not the spiritual reward for those who behave,
but the eternal reality, tasted now,
of all who are in Christ Jesus.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory