

June 9, 2019

The Church: The Acts of the Risen Christ
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The mission of the church, the reason we exist, is to bear witness to the present reign and rule of Christ, who is at the right hand of God.

R.C. Sproul
Presbyterian theologian

The starting point, the fundamental thing, is that Christianity is about Jesus...The Lord Jesus Christ is the theme of the preaching of the early church. He is the theme of the Gospel of Luke. He is the theme of the Acts of the Apostles.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
20th century Welsh medical doctor,
pastor, and preacher

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."

John 16:7

"I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God. Also henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?"

Isaiah 43:11-13

"And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Luke 24:49

Behind the earthly lies a heavenly reality...The New Testament church is God's promise to his Son in eternity and is brought about by the work of Jesus' personal representative agent, the Holy Spirit.

Derek Thomas
Welsh-American Presbyterian Pastor

The 'kingdom' comes to its fullest and most visible expression in this age in the life of the people of God who are ruled by the Word of Christ and empowered by the Spirit of Christ.

Guy Prentiss Waters
Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Psalms 95

People: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

People: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

We come, worshipping and bowing down to our King

"O Worship the King"

1. O wor - ship the King all glo - rious a - bove. and
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose
3. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It
4. Frail child - ren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in

5
grate - ful - ly sing his pow - er and his love. Our
ro - be is the light, whose can - o - py space. His
breathes in the air; it shines in the light; It
thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail; thy

9
shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pa -
char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds, form, and
streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain; and
mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end, our

13
vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.
Ma - ker, De - fen - der, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

In our worship we give glory to God, praising him for who he is and what he has done. We also cry out for his presence with us—by his Spirit now as he promised, but also when Christ returns in glory.

"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 prais - es 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.

But the LORD is
 the true God; he is
 the living God and
 the everlasting
 King.
 Jeremiah 10

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God declares the universal reality of our sin

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

Ecclesiastes 7

We cry out that God would grant us repentance

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come"



1. Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, come; let thy bright beams a - rise; dis -
2. Con - vince us of our sin, then lead to Je - sus' blood, and



pel the dark - ness from our minds and o - pen all our eyes.
to our wond' - ring view re - veal the se - cret love of God. *Chorus: Come,*



Ho - ly Spi - rit come! Give light to dark - ened eyes;



kin - dle in our hearts the flames of ne - ver dy - ing love. 3. 'Tis



thine to cleanse the heart, to sanc - ti - fy the soul, to pour fresh life in
there - fore, in our hearts; our minds from bon - dage free, then we shall know and



ev - 'ry part, and re - cre - ate us whole. 4. Dwell,
praise and love the Fa - ther, Son, and thee. *Chorus: Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit come! Give*



light to dark - ened eyes; kin - dle in our hearts the flames of ne - ver dy - ing love.

God proclaims his mercy to 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.

Titus 3

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
Psalm 51

We rejoice that his mercy is more than our sin

"A Debtor to Mercy Alone"

You cannot sin so much as God can forgive. If it comes to a pitched battle between sin and grace, you shall not be so bad as God shall be good. I will prove it to you. You can only sin as a man, but God can forgive as a God. You sin as a finite creature, but the Lord forgives as the infinite Creator
Charles Spurgeon



1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam?
3. What rich - es of kind - ness He lav - ished on us.



Om - nis - cient, all - know - ing, He counts not their sum.
What Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home?
His blood was the pay - ment, His life was the cost.



Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore.
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor.
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford.



Our sins, they are man-y—His mer-cy is more. Praise the Lord,



His mer-cy is more. _____ Strong-er than dark - ness,



new eve-ry morn; our sins, they are man - y—His mer-cy is more.



GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:1-11

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

The Church: The Acts of the Risen Christ

The Church that God Built

Preaching exists,
not for the
propagating of
views, opinions
and ideals, but for
the proclamation
of the mighty acts
of God.
James Stewart

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

The Lord's Supper is a physical action, established by Jesus, through which God acts to nourish, sustain, comfort, challenge, teach, and assure us. The celebration of the Lord's Supper nourishes our faith and stirs our imaginations to perceive the work of God and the contours of the gospel more clearly.

We witness to Christ celebrating the Lord's Supper and experiencing the eternal reality of Christ crucified, risen, and ascended into heaven applied to us by the Holy Spirit

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.

Hebrews 7:23-8:2

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

"Before the Throne of God Above"



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong, a per - fect
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair, and tells me of the guilt with-
 3. Be - hold him there! the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less Right - cous-



plea, a great High Priest whose name is Love, who e - ver lives and pleads for
 in, up - ward I look and see him there, who made an end to all my
 ness, the great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of Glo - ry and of

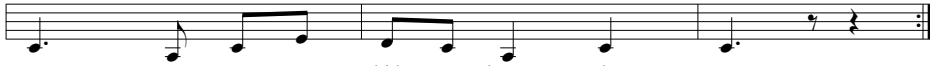


me. My name is gra - ven on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
 sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 grace! One with him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased by his



heart; I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence de -
 free; for God, the just, is sat - is - fied, to look on him and par - don
 blood; my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my

Last time: *DS al fine*



part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 me, to look on him and par - don me.
 God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

For 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.
 Hebrews 4

Living in the power of the Holy Spirit, we witness to Christ by giving 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.

We wait for the promised power of the Holy Spirit, coming to God in prayer that we would be faithful witnesses to Christ in all of life

*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.*

In your prayer, beware above everything of limiting God, not only by unbelief but by fancying that you know what He can do.

Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do... and expect great things.

Andrew Murray

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We rest in Christ, the church's one foundation

"The Church's One Foundation"



1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her
3. 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she
4. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and



is his new creation by water and the Word: from
 character salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth: one
 waits the consummation of peace forever more; 'til
 my stic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O



heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with
 holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and
 with the vision glorious her long- ing eyes are blessed, and
 happy ones and holy! 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 presses, with every grace endowed.
 the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
 them, the meek and lowly, on



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

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
 Ephesians 2

We live in Christ's power made perfect in our weakness, the promised Holy Spirit at work

Leader: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore boast all the more gladly of your weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon you. For the sake of Christ, then, be content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when you are weak, then you are strong.

2 Corinthians 12

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

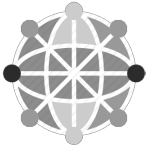
This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.



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)
Brian Cosgrove
Ken Morris



Credits

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Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Sarah Clarke, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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I'm not supposed to be pursuing impact,
I'm supposed to be pursuing God. And
when I pursue God I will have exactly as
much impact as He wants me to have.

Phil Vischer
creator of Veggie Tales

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory