

June 16, 2019

The Church Waiting
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, want us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we are to go, who will be with us, and what we must do. So thank you...for the waiting time.

John Bell

Scottish hymn-writer and minister

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."
John 17:20–23

When Christ established His church, though He saved individuals one at a time, every person He has ever brought to Himself, He has placed in a body—His church.

R.C. Sproul

Presbyterian theologian

A divided church in the New Testament sense of the word "church" is something illogical and incomprehensible— as illogical and incomprehensible as human sin.

Leslie Newbigin

20th century British missionary and theologian

The life, power and glory of the church is prayer. The life of its members is dependent on prayer and the presence of God is secured and retained by prayer...Without it, the church is lifeless and powerless.

E.M. Bounds

19th century Methodist Episcopal pastor, author, and attorney

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."
Acts 20:24

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 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 4:1–6

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,**

Psalms 103 & 104

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: **O LORD, my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.**

Leader: He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; he makes his messengers winds; his ministers a flaming fire.

We bless the Lord

"How Great Thou Art"

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, and hear the
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the worlds thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rol-ling
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played. Then sings my
 gran-deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze.
 bear-ing, he bled and died to take a-way my sin.
 ra-tion, and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

God calls us to worship him by reminding us of his glory. When we truly accept who he is, we have no choice but to respond in worship.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God invites us to taste his mercy

Proverbs 28

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

We confess our sins, our failures to live as he calls us, that we would obtain his mercy

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

God declares his rich mercy and great love for us in Jesus Christ

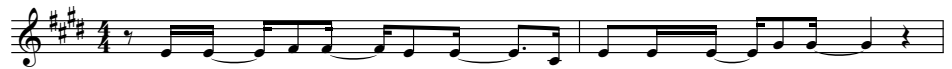
Ephesians 2

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—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

We love God because he loved us

“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!

To live by grace means to acknowledge my whole life story, the good and the bad. In admitting my bad side I learn who I am and what God's grace truly means.

We pray for God to speak to us as we come to him

“Speak, O Lord”



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you, to re-ceive the food of your
 2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly re - ver - ence, true hu -
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your



ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
 mi - li - ty. — Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us. — Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us — in your like - ness. That the light of Christ might be
 ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your



seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
 prom - is - es; — and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us — all your
 Words of pow'r that can ne - ver fail; let their
 Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the



pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
 Hebrews 1

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

Acts 1:12-26

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

"May his camp become desolate,
and let there be no one to dwell in it';

and

"Let another take his office.'

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

What rule has God
given to direct us
how we may
glorify and enjoy
him?

The Word of God,
which is contained
in the Scriptures of
the Old and New
Testaments, is the
only rule to direct
us how we may
glorify and enjoy
him.

Westminster Shorter
Catechism
Question 2

Sermon

The Church Waiting

The Church that God Built

Rev. Per Almquist

The function of the
pulpit is not to
entertain, to
amuse, to satisfy
an idle curiosity: it
is to instruct, to
inspire, to fire the
heart and mind, to
implant within us
noble desires and
ambitions: and,
above all to keep
ever before men
the one supreme
figure in history,
the Lord Jesus
Christ, and to
beget within them
a passion for him,
and for a Christly
life.

Francis Grimké

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We live in the waiting, seeking God to be at work in us together as one, that we might be witnesses to Jesus Christ

"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.

It is always God's
method to drive us
into a corner to
pray for the very
blessings he
intends to give us.

Derek Thomas

We live in the waiting as we live in Christ, celebrating 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.

"Nothing but the Blood"

1. What can wash a - way my sin? No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
2. For my clean - sing this I see: No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone: No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
4. This - is all my hope and peace: No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
5. Glo - ry, glo - ry thus I sing: No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.

5
What can make me whole a - gain? No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
For my par - don this my plea: No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
Naught of good that I have done, No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my righ - teous - ness: No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.
All my praise for this I bring: No-thing but the blood of Je - sus.

9
O, pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;

13
no oth - er fount I know, no - thing but the blood of Je - sus.

The Word leads us
to Christ by the
ear; the
Sacraments lead
us to Christ by the
eye.
Robert Bruce

God doesn't need
our money, but he
gives us the
privilege of
participating in his
kingdom by giving
it to him in faith.

Together we seek God as we give our tithes and 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.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We seek God together that we might be his witnesses

“We are God’s People”

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.

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

God blesses his church, that we may live as broken people bound together in Christ for his glory by his grace

Romans 15

Leader: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

People: Amen

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

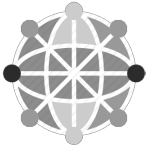
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



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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Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Shannon Van Dyke, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

"How Great Thou Art" ©1953 Manna Music, Inc. International. Words: Stuart K. Hine, 1949 alt. Music: Swedish folk melody.

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

"Speak, O Lord" ©2005 Thankyou Music. Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, 2005.

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If we wait until we're ready,
we'll be waiting for the rest of our lives.

Lemony Snicket
Children's Author

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory