

**June 30, 2019**

# Driven to Tears: A Passion for the City

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Exile is not the end of existence as  
God's people, but the beginning of  
a new phase of relating to God.

J. Andrew Dearman  
archaeologist and OT scholar

So Jesus also  
suffered outside the gate  
in order to sanctify the people  
through his own blood...For here  
we have no lasting city, but we seek  
the city that is to come. Through him  
then let us continually offer up a  
sacrifice of praise to God, that is,  
the fruit of lips that  
acknowledge his name.  
**Hebrews 13:12, 14-15**

And when  
he drew near and  
saw the city, he wept  
over it, saying, "Would that  
you, even you, had known on  
this day the things that make  
for peace! But now they are  
hidden from your eyes."

**Luke 19:41-42**

And  
the LORD said, "You  
pity the plant, for which  
you did not labor, nor did you  
make it grow, which came into  
being in a night and perished in a  
night. And should not I pity Nineveh,  
that great city, in which there are  
more than 120,000 persons who  
do not know their right hand  
from their left, and also  
much cattle?"

**Jonah 4:10-11**

You said: "I'll go to another country, go to another shore,  
find another city better than this one.  
Whatever I try to do is fated to turn out wrong  
and my heart lies buried as though it were something dead.  
How long can I let my mind moulder in this place?  
Wherever I turn, wherever I happen to look,  
I see the black ruins of my life, here,  
where I've spent so many years, wasted them, destroyed them totally."

You won't find a new country, won't find another shore.  
This city will always pursue you. You will walk  
the same streets, grow old in the same neighborhoods,  
will turn gray in these same houses.  
You will always end up in this city. Don't hope for things elsewhere:  
there is no ship for you, there is no road.  
As you've wasted your life here, in this small corner,  
you've destroyed it everywhere else in the world.

"The City"

C.P. Cavafy

translated by Edmund Keeley/Philip Sherrard  
19th-20th century Greek poet

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

**Leader:** Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**People:** **The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

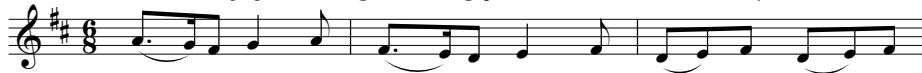
Psalms 98

**Leader:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**People:** **Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.**

**We break forth into joyous song and sing praises**

*"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"*



1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -  
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to  
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing  
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -



ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through  
be his aid; he is blest whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his  
pris - 'ner free, rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less  
ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es, of my God through



all my days. Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on  
God is stayed. Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - a - ted, seas and all that  
eyes to see. Well Je - ho - vah loves the right - eous, and the stran - ger  
all my days. O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all ag - es



man de - pend; he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing,  
they con - tain; he de - liv - ers from op - press - ion,  
he be - friends, helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow,  
he is King; un - to him, thy God, O Zi - on,



and his pur - po - ses shall end.  
righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.  
judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.  
joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

In worship we are part of "the large congregation" where all the writers of Scripture address us, where hymn writers use music to express truths that touch us not only in our heads but in our hearts, where the preacher who has just lived through six days of doubt, hurt, faith and blessing with the worshipers speaks the truth of Scripture in the language of the congregation's present experience.  
Eugene Peterson

"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

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## The holy God cries out of our need for him

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Isaiah 57

## We cry out in sorrow over our sin

*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 revives the hearts of the contrite by his love in Jesus Christ

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... In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Psalms 103  
1 John 4

### contrite

[kən'trit, 'käntrīt]

feeling remorse—  
guilt, regret, and  
sorrow—for our sin

"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 hope in God's steadfast love in Jesus

"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

5  
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

9  
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

12 3  
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

15  
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.

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# GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>4</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. <sup>6</sup>Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. <sup>8</sup>For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup>for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:4-14

<sup>10</sup>For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

## Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

### Driven to Tears: A Passion for the City

A Passion for God

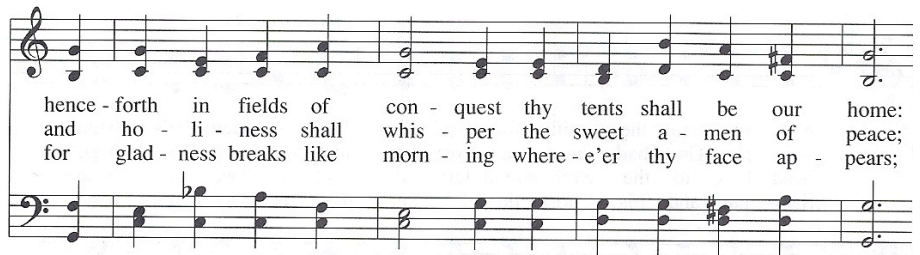
Preaching is not about eloquence or entertainment. Preaching is letting God's Word loose, so that by its power it changes our lives.

# We live for his kingdom to come here in the city where he has brought us

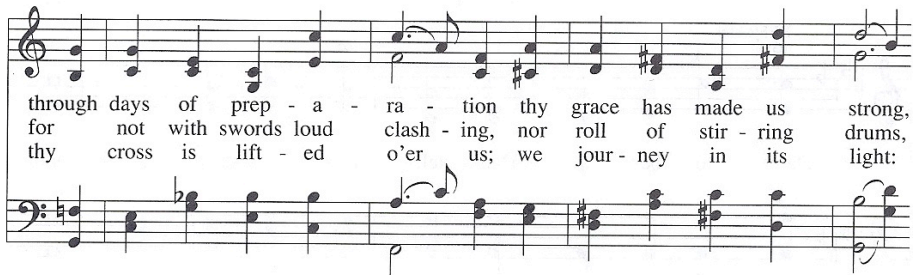
"Lead On, O King Eternal"



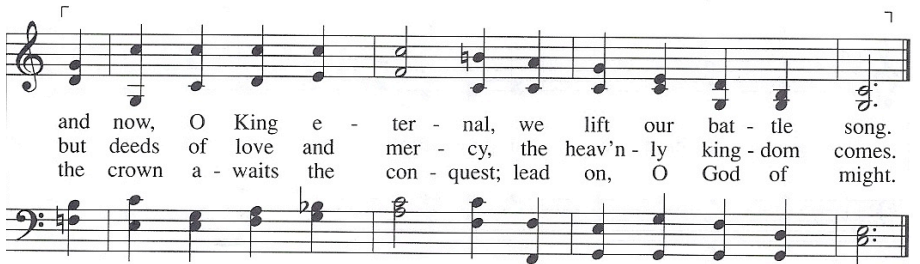
1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;  
2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears;



hence - forth in fields of con - quest thy tents shall be our home:  
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing where - e'er thy face ap - pears;



through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong,  
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
but deeds of love and mer - cy, the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might.

Thus says the  
LORD, your  
Redeemer, the  
Holy One of Israel:  
"I am the LORD  
your God, who  
teaches you to  
profit, who leads  
you in the way you  
should go."  
Isaiah 48



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# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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## **We follow where God leads as we ordain Brian Cosgrove to the office of Ruling Elder**

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?
4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?

Do you, the members of this church, acknowledge and receive this brother as a ruling elder, and do you promise to yield him all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord to which his office, according to the Word of God and the Constitution of this Church, entitles him?

Ordination is the  
authoritative  
admission of one  
duly called to an  
office in the  
Church of God.  
The Book of Church  
Order of the  
Presbyterian Church in  
America

## **We pray for the Church and her elders that God to work in our city through 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.*

## We celebrate the Lord's Supper, proclaiming Jesus' death as our hope for ourselves and the city

*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.*

The sacred mystery of the Supper consists in two things: physical signs, which, thrust before our eyes, represent to us, according to our feeble capacity, things invisible; and spiritual truth, which is at the same time represented and displayed through the symbols themselves.

John Calvin

"Lift High the Cross"



Lift high the cross the love of Christ pro-claim,

'till all the world a-dore his sac-red name;

lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim,

'till all the world a-dore his sac-red name!

1. Come, Christ-ians, fol-low where our Sav-ior trod,  
2. O Lord, once lift-ted the glo-rious tree,  
3. For thy blest cross which does for us a-tone,

our King vic-tor-ious, Christ, the Son of God,  
as thou has prom-ised, draw men un-to thee!  
cre-a-tion's prais-es rise be-fore thy throne! (Go to chorus)

Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,  
Thy king-dom come that earth's des-pair may cease;

the hosts of God in con-qu'ring ranks com-bine.  
the be-neath of the sha-dow of its heal-ing peace.

## **We live as God's city in our city, giving 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.*

"Abide with Me"

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;  
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,  
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left thee,  
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need thy presence, every passing hour.  
What but thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness  
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy victory?  
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross, before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

The offering is a reminder of our obligation to support the ministry of the church financially and a symbolic way of acknowledging God's authority over all of life by offering our whole lives to God.

# GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

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

## We look to the promise, living for the city to come

"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  
my pos - ses - sions lie. I am  
scat - ters night a way.  
felt and feared no more.  
in his bos - om rest.  
10 bound, I am bound, I am bound for the prom - ised Land. I am  
14 bound, I am bound, I am bound for the prom - ised Land.

**We live as his kingdom, his city in our city, by the power of his grace**

Leader: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1

**People: Amen**

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

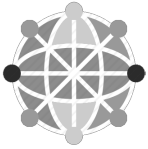
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us  
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



## 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.

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## 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



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Sarah Clarke, voice; Heather Kidd, voice; Millie Kidd, piano

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Jesus wept over Jerusalem.  
When was the last time you wept over  
Lewiston or Auburn from something  
other than frustration?

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory