

**July 28, 2019**

# What Shall We Do?

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Repentance always brings a man to this point: I have sinned. The surest sign that God is at work is when a man says that and means it. The entrance to the Kingdom [of God] is through the panging pains of repentance crashing into a man's respectable goodness.

Oswald Chambers

early 20th century Scottish minister and author of the devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*

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.  
And when he comes, he will  
convict the world concerning  
sin and righteousness and  
judgment...

**John 16:7-8**

And  
they glorified  
God, saying, "Then to  
the Gentiles also God  
has granted repentance  
that leads to life."

**Acts 11:18**

Genuine repentance is provoked when the excuses and rationalizations go and the self-applause is silenced, and we say, "Oh God, my God, what have I done?"

R.C. Sproul

20th century Presbyterian theologian and pastor

Today, for most people, including most professing Christians, God is an idea to talk about, or an inference from an argument, or a family tradition to be preserved. Yet, for a very few, God is a stark, fearsome, stunning, awesome, and shocking present *reality*.

Derek Thomas

Welsh Presbyterian pastor

Remember that  
you were at that time  
separated from Christ, alienated  
from the commonwealth of Israel  
and strangers to the covenants of  
promise, having no hope and without  
God in the world. But now in Christ  
Jesus you who once were far off  
have been brought near by the  
blood of Christ.

**Ephesians 2:12-13**

The repentance that begins a new relationship with God is not primarily a matter of drawing up lists of specific sins you are sorry for and want to change... Repentance is not less than being sorry for individual sins, but it means much more. The repentance that really changes your heart and your relationship with God begins when you recognize that your main sin, the sin under the rest of your sins, is your self-salvation project. Repentance, then, is confessing the things besides God himself that you have been relying on for your hope, significance, and security. That means we should repent not only for things we have done wrong (like cheating or lying), but also for the motivations beneath our good works.

Tim Keller

Presbyterian pastor

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

People: **God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.**

Psalms 47

Leader: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

People: **For God is the King of all the earth.**

## We sing praises to God, our King

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!  
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, rich  
 3. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, who  
 4. Crown him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Fa - ther known; one  
 5. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time; Cre -

how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own! A -  
 wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied. No  
 rose vic - tor - ious to the strife for those he came to save. His  
 with the Spi - rit, through him giv'n, from yon - der glo - rious throne. To  
 a - tor of the rol - ling spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime. All

wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and  
 an - gel in the sky can full - y bear that sight, but  
 glor - ies now we sing, who died and rose on high, who  
 thee be end - less praise, for thou for us hast died; be  
 hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! for thou hast died for me: thy

hail him as thy match - less King, through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 down - ward bends his wond' - ring eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 died e - tern - al life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thou, O Lord, through end - less days a - dored and mag - ni - fied.  
 praise shall ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

God doesn't give us a watertight argument for himself. He gives us a person: Jesus Christ. No one has seen God, but in Jesus Christ, God reveals himself to the world. Thus Jesus Christ calls us to come to God, to receive his grace and truth, and to respond in worship.

"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

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## **God declares that Jesus 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

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.

## **We turn to God admitting that we are the sinners that Jesus calls**

*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 shows his kindness and love for sinners such as us in Jesus Christ**

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

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2

## We rest in the deep love of the Father shown in Jesus Christ

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"



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# GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>36</sup>“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 2:36–47

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**Sermon**

Rev. Per Almquist

## What Shall We Do?

The Church that God Built

The main purpose of a sermon is to bring men nearer to God and to each other—is to influence character and conduct so as to bring them more and more to conform to the character and life of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Scriptures.  
Francis Grimké

**Having heard God's word, we are cut to the heart and look not to our lives, but to Jesus Christ**

"Upon A Life I Have Not Lived"

1.Up - on a\_\_ life I have not lived, up-on a

4 death I did\_\_ not die; an-oth-er's life, an-oth-er's death, I stake my whole e-ter - ni-ty.

7  
2.Not on the tears which I\_\_ have shed, not on the  
3.Lord, I be - lieve; O deal\_\_ with me as one who

9 sor-rows I\_\_ have known; an-oth - er's tears, an - oth - er's\_\_ griefs; on these I  
has thy Word be - lieved; I take the gift, Lord look on\_\_ me as one who

11 rest, on these\_\_ a - lone. O\_\_ Je - sus, Son of God, I  
has thy gift\_\_ re - ceived.

13 build on what thy cross has done for\_\_ me\_\_

15 There both my life and death I read, my guilt, my par - don

17 there I\_\_ see,\_\_ there I\_\_ see. **D.S. al Fine**

Our faith is not in our lives and what we have or can do, but solely in Jesus Christ. It is upon his life and death alone that we place our trust for all eternity.



# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

## God strengthens our lives in this Jesus through 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.

The Lord's Supper sets before us Christ crucified, who in the sacrament conveys to our faith all the blessings contained in the giving of his life for those who believe.

"Down at the Cross"

1. Down at the cross where my Sa - vior - died,  
 2. I am so won - drous - ly saved from sin;  
 3. Come to the foun - tain, so rich and sweet;

3 down where for cleans - ing from sin I cried;  
 Je - sus so sweet - ly a - bides with - in;  
 cast thy poor soul at the Sav - ior's feet;

5 there to my heart was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,  
 there at the cross where he took me in, sing - ing,  
 plunge in to - day and be made com - plete, sing - ing,

7 1.  
 "Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."  
 "Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - - - -"  
 "Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na

11 2, 3.  
 me." There to my hea - rt was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,  
 me."

15 "Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."

17 There to my hea - rt was the blood ap - plied sing - ing,

19 "Glo - ry, Glo - ry, Glo - ry to his Na - me."

Amanda  
Cunningham  
recently  
graduated from  
the University of  
Vermont. Having  
been active in  
Reformed  
University  
Fellowship (RUF)  
at UVM while a  
student, Amanda  
will now be  
serving with RUF  
for the next two  
years at Louisiana  
State University.

## **We hear of a life lived in the reality of this Jesus as both Lord and Christ**

Amanda Cunningham, RUF at Louisiana State University

## **We come to God in prayer for Amanda as she lives life acknowledging Jesus as both Lord and Christ, and for us as we too live in this Jesus**

*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 acknowledge Jesus as both Lord and Christ as we give our tithes and 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.*

# GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

## We surrender all to Jesus as both Lord and Christ

"All to Jesus I Surrender"

C F C G' Em G' C F C G' Em C

1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;  
 2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, hum - bly at his feet I bow,  
 3. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly thine;  
 4. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;

F C G7 Em G7 C F C G7 Em C

may I ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.  
 world - ly plea - sures all for - sak - en, take me, Je - sus, take me now.  
 may thy Ho - ly Spir - it fill me, may I know thy pow'r di - vine.  
 fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless - ing fall on me.

REFRAIN  
 F C F C G G G7 C

I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.  
 I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.

F C F C/G G7 C 7

All to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."  
 Matthew 16

Ephesians 1 and 6

**We receive the blessing of God in Christ Jesus our Lord**

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.*

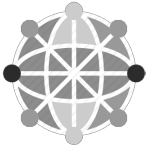




## Welcome to Free Grace

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



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Dan Crawford, *voice*; Millie Kidd, *voice, piano*; Beth Almquist, *piano, violin*

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What do people see my life is lived  
for and built upon when they look  
at my calendar, my bank  
statement, or my behavior at work  
or school?

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory