

August 4, 2019

Baptism: In the Name of Jesus Christ

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The sacraments...are signs given the force of God's own promise, so that our participation in them is not an exercise in fantasy nor in transformation of consciousness. The sacraments certify reality for us, by the assurance of God's own Word.

Sinclair Ferguson

Scottish Presbyterian pastor and theologian

He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well.

Romans 4:11

Our faith does not actuate God's covenant or cause it to be extended to us—he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4)—but our faith does claim (and live out) the covenant blessings that God provides by his grace and pledges with his seal.

Bryan Chapell

Presbyterian pastor and
former president of Covenant Theological Seminary

The Bible is a covenantal book, and the Bible's theology is a covenantal theology.

Guy Prentiss Waters
NT scholar

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4

For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

Hebrews 6:16-18

Thus, the goal of baptism into Jesus' name is to establish a relationship with him.

Nigel Turner
Greek grammarian and NT scholar

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Romans 6
Psalm 95

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

We come and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation

"Come, People of the Risen King"



1. Come, peo - ple of the ri - sen King, who de - light to bring him praise; come,
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing in the night; come,
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wo - men of the faith; come,



all, and tune your harps to sing to the Mor - ning Star of grace. From the
those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For his
those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his grace. O - ver



shift - ing sha - dows of the earth we will lift our eyes to him, where
per - fect love will nev - er change, and his mer - cies nev - er cease, but
all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them call the



stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to ga - ther chil - dren in. Re -
fol - low us through all our days with the cer - tain hope of peace.
truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our God is all in all!"



joyce! Re - joyce! Let ev - 'ry tongue re - joyce! One heart, one



voice; O church of Christ re - joyce!

The early church called Sunday the Lord's Day because it was on Sunday that Christ rose from the grave. So every Sunday we gather as his people and celebrate his resurrection and our hope in him.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

Romans 6

God calls us to be buried in death with Christ for our sin

How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life...For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We confess our sin and walk in newness of life through Jesus Christ

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.

We declare that his resurrection is our life

Elder: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

People: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

Elder: In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

People: For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15

The empty tomb of Easter is the assurance of our salvation. As the wages of sin is death (Romans 6), Christ's victory over death in his resurrection is our guarantee that by faith in him we find forgiveness, redemption from our sin, and eternal life in him.

We stand on the solid rock of the risen Christ

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

1. My hope is built on no - thing less than
2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3. His oath, his cov - en - ant, his blood sup -
4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

4
Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; I
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in
port me in the whelm - ing flood; when
may I then in him be found; dressed

6
dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale, my
all a - round my soul gives way, he
in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

8
whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name. On
an - chor holds with - in the veil.
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.

10
Christ, the sol - id rock I stand; all

12
o - ther ground is sink - ing sand, all

14
o - ther ground is sink - ing sand.

He himself bore
our sins in his
body on the tree,
that we might die
to sin and live to
righteousness. By
his wounds you
have been healed.
1 Peter 2

"Before the Throne of God Above"

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



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 - eous -



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

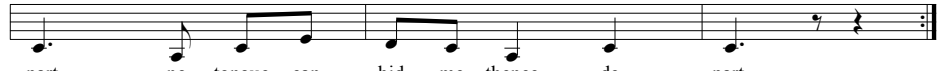


me. My name is gra - ven on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
 sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 grace! One with him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased by his



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.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Acts 2:36–39

³⁷Now 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?” ³⁸And 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. ³⁹For 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.”

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 2:8-15

God has given us the ability to hear him speak through his word, the Bible. We turn to it throughout our worship to hear God speak to us about who he is and who we are.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Baptism: In the Name of Jesus Christ

The Church that God Built

What is baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Westminster Shorter
Catechism 94

We rejoice and rest in the eternal covenant love of God declared in baptism that draws us to, and keeps us in, Christ

“Father, Long before Creation”



1. Fa - ther, long be - fore cre - a - tion thou hast cho - sen us ___ in love; ___
 2. Though the world may change its ___ fash - ion, yet our God is e'er ___ the same; ___
 3. God's com - pas - sion is my sto - ry, ___ is my boast - ing all ___ the day; ___
 4. Lov - ing Fa - ther, now be - fore thee we will ev - er praise thy love; ___



and that love so ___ deep, so ___ mov - ing, ___
 his com - pas - sion ___ and his cov - 'nant ___
 mer - cy free and ___ nev - er fail - ing ___
 and our songs will ___ sound un - ceas - ing ___



draws us close to Christ a - bove. ___ Still it keeps us,
 through all a - ges will ___ re - main. ___ God's own chil - dren,
 moves my will, di - rects ___ my way. ___ God so loved us,
 'til we reach our home ___ a - bove. ___ Giv - ing glo - ry,



still it keeps us ___ firm - ly fixed in Christ a - lone. ___
 God's own chil - dren must for - ev - er praise his name. ___
 God so loved us ___ that his on - ly Son ___ he gave, ___
 giv - ing glo - ry ___ to our God and to ___ the Lamb; ___



Giv - ing glo - ry, giv - ing glo - ry ___ to our God and to ___ the Lamb.

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
 Ephesians 1

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

A sacrament is a sign of participation in saving grace. It marks not simply the presence and work of God, but his application of salvation to sinners.

Edmund Clowney

Through the Lord's Supper God draws us to his grace in Jesus Christ sealing and applying his death to us by faith

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.

Romans 6:1–14

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

**We live the covenant reality of our God in Jesus Christ giving ourselves to him
body and soul 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.*

**We come to God in prayer that he would work in us according to his covenant
promises in Christ**

*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 the
means by which
an empty soul that
has been touched
by Jesus Christ
can be thrust
beneath the life-
giving fountain of
God's grace, can
bask in God's
goodness, and
can be
supernaturally
refreshed for life's
task.

James Montgomery
Boice

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We rejoice in the glorious reality of the covenant signified, sealed, and applied to us in baptism: that God has called us by name and given us his name, as we are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ "I am the Lord"



1. When you pass through the wa-ters I will be with you and the waves will
 2. When you walk through the fire you'll not be burned, and the flames will



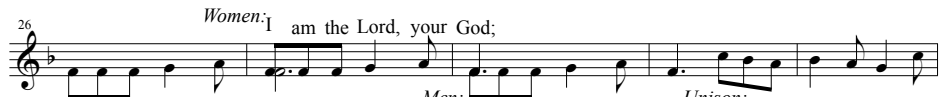
not o-ver-come you Do not fear, for I have re-deemed you. I have
 not con-sume you Do not fear, for I have re-deemed you. I have



Women: I am the Lord, your
 called you by name, you are mine. *Men:* For I am the Lord, your God;
 called you by name, you are mine.



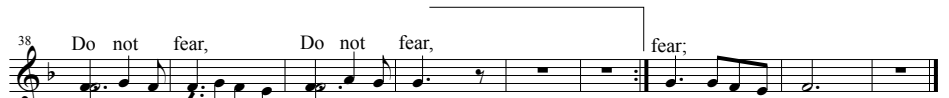
Men: I am the Lord your God; *Unison:* I am the Ho-ly One of Is-ra-el, your Sa-vior. *Men:* For



Women: I am the Lord, your God;
 I am the Lord, your God; *Men:* I am the Lord, your God; *Unison:* I am the Ho-ly One of



Women: Do not fear, Do not fear,
 Is-ra-el, your Sa-vior. *Men:* I am the Lord, I am the Lord, I am the



Do not fear, Do not fear, fear;
 Lord, I am the Lord, *Unison:* I am the Lord.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
 Galatians 4

Baptized into the name of Jesus Christ, we boast in our weakness that his power may rest upon us

Leader: [And he says to you] “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.*

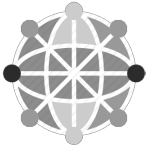
We do not end our service with a command or a well-wish, but with God's blessing reminding us of the beauty and power of God's promise to his people.



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

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"I am the Lord" ©1984 Meadowgreen Music Company. Words: Billy Sprague based on Isaiah 43. Music: Billy Sprague, 1984.

Baptism is God's wedding ring,
his visible sign where he publicly
declares that we are his,
called by his name in Jesus Christ,
called to live as those who bear his name.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory