

August 18, 2019

The Church Devoted
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Christian fellowship is Christian caring, and Christian caring is Christian sharing.

John Stott
British Anglican pastor and theologian

None reproached, none envied, none grudged; no pride, no contempt was there...The poor man knew no shame, the rich no haughtiness.

John Chrysostom
4th century bishop of Constantinople
known as "Golden Mouth"

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
1 John 1:3

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:9

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10

True spiritual development is something which God himself gives...Our greatest need is to recognize, and to put our lives under, the influences which God uses to produce growth in Christian character.

Sinclair Ferguson
Scottish Presbyterian pastor

Being a Christian is not a private, solitary life lived in isolation from other professing Christians. Being a Christian means formally identifying oneself with the people of God, committing to the reverent and joyful worship of the Lord alongside them, and committing to the hard work of building godly relationships with them.

Guy Prentiss Waters
NT scholar

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Matthew 11
Psalm 95
Isaiah 55

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!

Leader: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

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.

God calls us to come and worship through Jesus Christ

"Come, Ye Sinners"



1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and wretch - ed,
2. Come, ye need - y, come and wel - come,
3. Come, ye wea - ry, hea - vy la - den,
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger,
5. Lo! the in - car - nate God, a - scend - ed,



weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;
God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
bruised and of bro - ken by the fall;
nor fit - ness fond - ly droom;
pleads the mer - it of his blood;



Je - sus read - y stands to re - save you,
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
all the fit - ness he re - qui - res
ven - ture on him, ven - ture whol - ly,



full of pi - ty joined with power.
ev - r'y grace that you at nigh.
you will ne - ver come at all.
is to feel your need of him.
let no oth - er trust in - trude.



He is a - ble, he is a - ble,
With - out mon - ey, with - out mon - ey,
Not the righ - teous, not the righ - teous;
This he gives you, he gives you,
None but Je - sus, none but Je - sus



he come is will - ing; doubt no more.
sin - ners Je - sus Christ and buy.
'tis the Spir - it's ris - ing to call.
can do help - less sin - ners good.

Our worship is a reflexive and a deliberate response to God's gracious call to come to him. When we come to him through Jesus Christ we experience the comfort, the peace, the strength, and the joy of his grace.

"O for a Thousand Tongues"

1.O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the
 2.My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim, to
 3.Je-sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease; 'tis
 4.He breaks the pow'r of reign-ing sin, he sets the pris-'ner free; his

6
 glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace.
 spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of thy name.
 mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 blood can make the foul-est clean, his blood a-vailed for me.

10
 5.He speaks and, list-'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-
 6.Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loos-en'd tongues em-

14
 ceive; the mourn-ful bro-ken hearts re-joice; the hum-ble poor be-lieve.
 ploy; ye blind, be-hold your Sav-ior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Sing praises to the
 LORD, who sits
 enthroned in Zion!
 Tell among the
 peoples his
 deeds!

Psalms 9

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to humble ourselves, to acknowledge that nothing that we look to outside of him can justify us, make us right with him

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18

We humble ourselves, confessing that we look to so many things besides him to make us right with him—and they all fail

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.

Our confession of our sin is not our coming to God to plead for his love, that we are not so bad after all, but our accepting the reality of our sin and resting in his coming to us

God proclaims his grace: that Christ took our poverty on himself that we might have his riches

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich...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. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

2 Corinthians 8
Galatians 4

As a deer pants for
flowing streams,
so pants my soul
for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for
God, for the living
God.
Psalm 42

We rejoice that he has found us, the one we have longed for to answer our desperate need

"Satisfied"

1. All my life long I had pant - ed
 2. Feed - ing on the filth a - round me
 3. Poor I was and sought for rich - es,
 4. Well of wa - ter ev - er spring - ing,

3
 for a drink from some cool spring
 'till my strength was al - most gone.
 Bread of Life so rich and fy, free,

5
 that I hoped soul would quench the burn - ing
 Longed my soul for some - thing bet - ter,
 But the dust I gath - ered 'round me
 un - told wealth that ne - ver fail - eth,

7
 of the thirst I felt with in
 on - ly still to hun - ger on.
 on - ly mocked my soul's sad cry.
 my Re - deem - er is to me!

9
 Hal - le - lu - jah! He has found me,

11
 the One my soul so long has craved! Je - sus sat - is - fies

14
 all my long - ings; through his blood I now am saved.

Last time only:
 17
 through his blood I now am saved.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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

Acts 2:42-47

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

The Church Devoted

The Church that God Built

The God who
speaks in Scripture
speaks to us now.
The God who
acted in biblical
history acts today.
Through the Holy
Spirit, Christ is
present in the
sermon offering
grace and calling
for obedience.

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

We stand in fellowship together as God's people to live the reality of Jesus, both Lord and Christ, as a witness to the world

"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.

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper, breaking the bread in fellowship together according to the apostles' teaching

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.

1 Corinthians 15:1–8, 11

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that 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. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me... Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Communion is, of all the actions of worship, a uniquely corporate event. We can sing alone, or study Scripture alone, or pray alone, but nobody does Communion alone for it is our celebration that we are united to Jesus Christ, and in him, to each other.

For just as you
once presented
your members as
slaves to impurity
and to lawlessness
leading to more
lawlessness, so
now present your
members as slaves
to righteousness
leading to
sanctification.
Romans 6

We devote ourselves to the reality of Jesus Christ as we give our tithes and offerings to him to meet the needs of his people

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways, on - ly,
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
 5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no
 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its

7 Lord to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be
 for my king. Take my lips, and let them be
 I with - hold. Take my in - tel - lect, and use
 lon - ger mine. Take my heart, it is thy own;
 trea - sure store. Take my self, and I will be

14 let them flow in cease - less praise,
 swift and beau - ti - ful for thee,
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,
 it shall be thy roy - al throne,
 e - ver, on - ly, all for thee!

2, 4, 6.
 G A m G F Em F/D G sus G
 23 Take my life, all I am; take my life and make it thine.

We devote ourselves to prayer, seeking God and dependent on him in all things

*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.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We sing and tell of this Jesus, both Lord and Christ, until the earth and heavens are filled with his glory

"Lift High the Name of Jesus"

1. Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our King. Make
2. Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Lord. His
3. Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Light. No

5 known the pow - er of his grace, the beau - ty of his peace. Re -
pow'r in us is great - er than, is great - er than this world. To
oth - er name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life. He

9 mem - ber how his mer - cy reached and we cried out to him. He
share the rea - son for our hope, to serve with love and grace, that
o - pens up our eyes to see the har - vest he has grown. We

13 lift - ed us to so - lid ground, to free - dom from our sin. Oh
all who see him shine through us might bring the Fa - ther praise.
la - bor in his fields of grace as he leads sin - ners home.

17 sing my soul and tell all he's done 'till the earth and heavens are filled with his glo - ry.

We live in his grace, love, and fellowship

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13

People: Amen

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

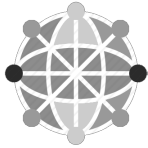
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



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

Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. All songs are used by permission. All rights are reserved by the copyright holders. All are used according to CCLI license #11100390.

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

"Come, Ye Sinners" ©2000 Detuned Radio Music (ASCAP). Words: Joseph Hart, 1759. Music: Matthew S. Smith, 2000.

"O for a Thousand Tongues" Public Domain. Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. 1961. Music: Carl Glaser, arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839.

"Satisfied" ©1997 Karl Digerness Music. Words: Clara T. Williams, 1875. Music: Karl Digerness, 1997.

"We Are God's People" ©1976 Fred Bock Music Co. Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976; Music: Johannes Brahms, 1876, arr. Fred Bock, 1976.

"Take My Life and Let It Be" © 2006 The Well. Words: Frances Havergal, 1874. Music: Aaron Angstrom, 2006, arr. Beth Almquist, 2012.

"Lift High the Name of Jesus" ©2013 Getty Music Publishing (BMI), Alletrop Music (BMI), and Fionán de Barra. Words and Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash, and Fionán de Barra, 2013.

devoted /də'vōdəd/

to occupy oneself diligently; to pay
persistent attention to; to hold fast

Are you devoted to Jesus Christ as
something to believe or a way to live?
Careful how you answer—your friends
and neighbors can see your answer in
your life.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory