

**August 25, 2019**

# A Brief History of the Future

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The fact that Pentecost cannot be repeated does not mean it's been rescinded.

John Murray  
20<sup>th</sup> century Scottish-American  
Presbyterian theologian

True Christianity produces beauty as well as truth. If we do not show beauty in the way we treat each other, then in the eyes of the world and in the eyes of our own children, we are destroying the truth we proclaim.

Francis Schaeffer  
20<sup>th</sup> century Presbyterian pastor, philosopher,  
and apologist

I will  
cause your  
name to be  
remembered in all  
generations; therefore  
nations will praise you  
forever and ever.

**Psalms 45:17**

And he said to me,  
"Son of man, can these  
bones live?" And I answered, "O  
Lord GOD, you know." Then he said  
to me, "Prophecy over these bones,  
and say to them, O dry bones, hear the  
word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord  
GOD to these bones: Behold, I will  
cause breath to enter you, and  
you shall live."

**Ezekiel 37:3-5**

Follow the pattern of the  
sound words that you have  
heard from me, in the faith and love  
that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit  
who dwells within us, guard the good  
deposit entrusted to you...You then, my  
child, be strengthened by the grace that is in  
Christ Jesus, and what you have heard  
from me in the presence of many  
witnesses entrust to faithful men, who  
will be able to teach others also.

**2 Timothy 1:13-14, 2:1-2**

Blessed child of the covenant, for you God made the world. For you the prophets and the patriarchs were sent. For you the covenants and the promises were given. For you God's revelation was written down. For you our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ became a man, died upon the cross, was raised again for your salvation. You can not possibly know these things now, but we, your church, promise to tell them to you until you make them your own.

Huguenot (French Protestant) baptismal promise

The severity of the perception surprised us. Out of the twenty attributes we assessed, both positive and negative, as they related to Christianity being anti-homosexual was at the top of the list. Not opposition to gay politics or behavior, but disdain for individuals has become virtually synonymous with the Christian faith.

David Kinnaman and Gaby Lyons  
authors of *unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks  
about Christianity...and Why It Matters*

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

Psalms 145 & 146

**People: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

**People: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

## We sing praises to our God

“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.

Biblical worship is always a response to God's gracious revelation of himself to his people. Hence, all our worship services begin with a Scriptural call to worship God.

"God, My King, Thy Might Confessing"



1. God, my King, thy might con-fess - ing, ev - er will I bless thy name;  
2. They shall talk of all thy glo - ry, on thy might and great - ness dwell,  
3. Full of kind - ness and com-pass - ion, slow to an - ger, vast in love,



day by day thy throne ad - dress - ing, still will I thy praise pro - claim.  
speak of thy great acts the sto - ry, and thy deeds of won - der tell.  
God is good to all cre - a - tion; all his works his good - ness prove.



Hon - or great our God be - fit - teth; who his ma - jes - ty can reach?  
Nor shall fail from mem - 'ry's trea - sure works by love and mer - cy wrought:  
All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee; these shall all thy saints a - dore.



Age to age his works trans - mit - teth; age to age his pow'r shall teach.  
works of love sur - pass - ing mea - sure, works of mer - cy pass - ing thought.  
King su - preme shall they con - fess thee, and pro - claim thy sov - 'reign pow'r.

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.  
Psalm 145

# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

## God declares what is good and what he requires of us

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

Micah 6

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

## We confess our sin, our inability to do what is good and what God requires, and rest in God's mercy

"God, Be Merciful to Me"



1. God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on thy grace I  
2. My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my  
3. I am e - vil, born in sin; thou de - sir - est  
4. Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by thy wrath and  
5. Grac - ious God, my heart re - new, make my spi - rit  
6. Sin - ners then shall learn from me and re - turn, O



rest my plea; plen - teous in com - pas - sion thou,  
soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst thy grace  
truth with - in. Thou a - lone my Sav - iour art,  
judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - joice  
right and true; cast me not a - way from thee,  
God, to thee; Sav - iour all my guilt re - move,



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me  
and pro - voked thee to thy face; I con - fess thy  
teach thy wis - dom to my heart; make me pure, thy  
and in glad - ness hear thy voice; from my sins O  
let thy spi - rit dwell in me; thy sal - va - tion's  
and my tongue shall sing thy love; touch my si - lent



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.  
judge - ment just, speech - less, I thy mer - cy trust.  
grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.  
hide thy face, blot them out in bound - less grace.  
joy im - part, stead - fast make my wil - ling heart.  
lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.

We need to confess our sin before God like a child needs to own up to his mistakes before Mom and Dad, not to earn their love, but to rest in it and know it more fully.

This morning we use King David's cry for mercy in Psalm 51 as our cry for mercy.

Micah 7  
Ephesians 1

## God assures us of his grace to us lavished upon us in Christ Jesus

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea...In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us.

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 join the everlasting song praising the grace that saved sinners like us

"Amazing Grace"

1. A - ma - zing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my  
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -  
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing

7  
wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am  
fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that grace ap -  
rea - dy come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus  
as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's

12  
found, was blind, but now I see.  
pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
far, and grace will lead me home.  
praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup>One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup>On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup>They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

<sup>7</sup>They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!

<sup>11</sup>They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup>to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

[The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.]

Psalm 145:1–13

Why do we use so  
much Scripture in  
our worship?

All Scripture is  
breathed out by  
God and profitable  
for teaching, for  
reproof, for  
correction, and for  
training in  
righteousness, that  
the man of God  
may be  
competent,  
equipped for  
every good work.  
2 Timothy 3

Rev. David Cassidy serves as Lead Pastor at Christ Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee. He enjoys writing, photography, movies, culinary arts, poetry, reading all manner of books and screenplays, and hiking around Montana, and is life-long fan of the Packers, Cubs, Texas Longhorns, and Arsenal.

## **Sermon**

Rev. David Cassidy

### **A Brief History of the Future**

preached at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America



**We tell our story to the next generation and all who will hear**

“Blessed Assurance”

D G D A

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a fore - taste of  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav - ior am

E A D G D

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,  
 burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a - bove  
 hap - py and blest; watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,

G Em A<sup>7</sup> D Γ REFRAIN

born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry,  
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

G D G D A E A A<sup>7</sup>

this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my

D G D G Em A<sup>7</sup> D 1

sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.  
 Psalm 146

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# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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## **We give our tithes and offerings to God as part of imparting life and not just downloading information**

*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 his Spirit would empower us to bring the gospel to all generations**

*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, resting in the glorious message of Jesus Christ for our lives**

*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.*

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. 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. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.  
1 Corinthians 11

# GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

**We cry out for the message and mission to go forth in us and through us as God's kingdom comes**

*"Let Your Kingdom Come"*

1. Your glo-rious cause, O God, en - ga - ges our hearts.  
2. Give us your strength, O God, and cour-age to speak.

5 May Je - sus Christ be known where - ev - er we are.  
Per - form your won - drous deeds through those who are weak.

9 We ask not for our - selves, but for your re - nown.  
Lord, use us as you want, what - ev - er the test.

13 The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your king - dom come."  
By grace we'll preach your gos - pel 'till our dy - ing breath.

18 Let your king - dom come, — let your will be done. — so that ev - 'ry-one

24 — might know your Name. — Let your song be heard — ev - 'ry - where on earth,

30 — 'till your sov - 'reign work — on earth is done: — let your king - dom come! —

Pray then like this:  
"Our Father in  
heaven, hallowed  
be your name. Your  
kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in  
heaven."  
Matthew 6

## God declares his promise to keep us on message and on mission

**Leader:** Now may the God of your salvation, according to his steadfast love and his abundant mercy, create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you. May the Lord restore to you the joy of your salvation and uphold you with a willing spirit that your tongue will sing aloud of his righteousness and your mouth will declare his praise.

**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.*

from Psalm 51



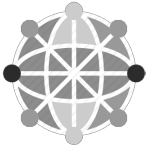




## Welcome to Free Grace

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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We are not allowed to be the generation of capitulation. We've got to be the generation with some insulation that will be the generation of infiltration that will go into the world; in it, but not of it, and empowered with the Holy Spirit to bring the gospel from one generation to the next...When you grow up in a caravan, when you grow up in a community of believers, whether you are a child or a young person who needs to be shaped for ministry, you are not simply getting a download of information, you are getting an impartation of life.

David Cassidy

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory