

September 1, 2019

What We Have to Give

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The fact that repentance is both a command laid upon us and a gift of the sovereign, merciful God should drive us to prayer. Fitting is the church father Augustine's prayer: 'do quod iubes, et iube quod vis' ('Give what you command, and command what you will').

Guy Prentiss Waters
NT scholar

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert...

Isaiah 35:5-6

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Redemption is God's arrangement to reverse the curse of sin and to renew all things—to restore creation, not destroy it. God is on a mission to reclaim and replenish his corrupted territory, redirecting it back to himself and thereby "making all things new" (Revelation 21:5). God created both the physical and the spiritual, and he's going to redeem both the physical and the spiritual.

Tullian Tchividjian
former Presbyterian pastor and
Billy Graham's grandson

Jesus, the last Adam, came to restore the world, from its current state of disintegration and sin, to its former state of beauty and glory.

Derek Thomas
Welsh Presbyterian pastor

That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

Matthew 8:16-17

And 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, by blotting out the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

...sin has corrupted all aspects of life—spiritual, psychological, social, and physical. The kingdom of God, however, is the renewal of every one of these areas under the power of God.

Jesus' miracles were demonstrations of the coming of the kingdom...These supernatural deeds visibly demonstrated the way in which the kingdom of God restores the entire creation, and how all the effects of sin are healed under his rule.

Tim Keller
Presbyterian pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

People: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.**

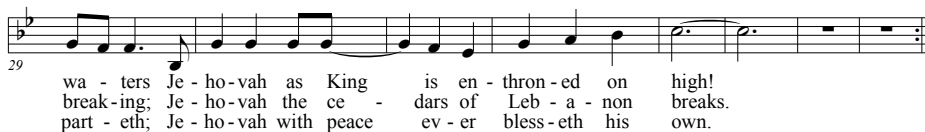
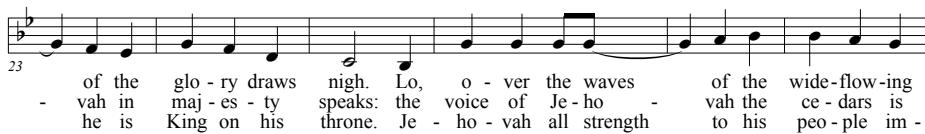
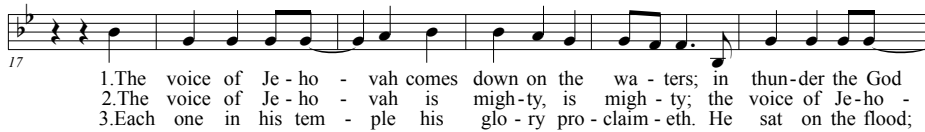
Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth;

People: **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"**

1 Chronicles 16

We join with all the earth to sing to the Lord

"Now unto Jehovah"



God's call to worship reminds us that he alone is worth worshipping. He alone is great beyond our comprehension. And he calls us to come to him and receive his gifts of grace through Jesus Christ.

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to his feet your trib - ute bring;
 2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fa - thers in dis - tress;
 3. Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
 4. Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
 5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;

ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, who, like me, his praise should sing?
 praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;
 • in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes;
 but while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
 sun and moon, bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space,

Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 • praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, wide - ly as his mer - cy goes.
 Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise the High E - ter - nal One.
 praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him, praise with us the God of grace.

Bless the LORD, O
 my soul, and
 forget not all his
 benefits, who
 forgives all your
 iniquity, who heals
 all your diseases,
 who redeems your
 life from the pit,
 who crowns you
 with steadfast love
 and mercy, who
 satisfies you with
 good so that your
 youth is renewed
 like the eagle's.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to return to him and give up trying to save ourselves

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."

Hosea 14

We repent and turn back to God

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 declares that he has blotted out our sins by the death of Jesus Christ

In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority... And 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, by blotting out the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

The grace and truth that is the glory of God revealed in Jesus Christ is that with his death he has paid what we owe, the wages of our sin. We confess our sins in worship to rest in the truth of his holiness and our unrighteousness, of his love and grace that we do not deserve.

Colossians 2

surety

['SHōōritē]

one who has become legally liable for the debt, default, or failure in duty of another

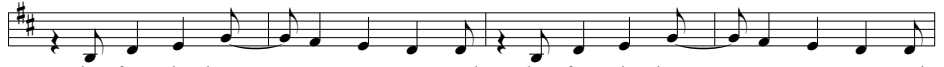
We rise up in praise of the God who, in Jesus Christ, blotted out the record of our sins "Arise, My Soul, Arise"



1. A - rise, my soul, a - rise, shake off your guilt - y fears;
2. He ev - er lives a - bove, for me to in - ter - cede,
3. Five bleed - ing wounds he bears, re - ceived on Cal - va - ry;
4. My God is re - con - ciled; his pard - 'ning voice I hear;



the bleed - ing sac - ri - fice on my be - half ap - pears:
his all - re - deem - ing love, his prec - ious blood to plead;
they pour ef - fec - tual prayers, they strong - ly plead for me.
he owns me for his child; I can no long - er fear;



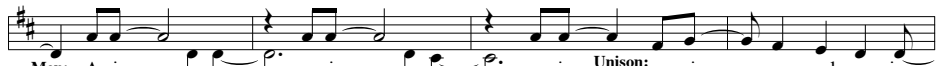
be - fore the throne my sure - ty stands, be - fore the throne my sure - ty stands,
his blood a - toned for ev - 'ry race, his blood a - toned for ev - 'ry race,
"For - give him, O for - give," they cry, "for - give him, O for - give," they cry,
with con - fi - dence I now draw nigh, with con - fi - dence I now draw nigh,



my name is writ - ten on his hands.
and sprin - kles now the throne of grace.
"don't let that ran - somed sin - ner die!"
and "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther!" cry.



Men: A-rise, a-rise, a-rise, Unison: a-rise, my soul, a-rise.
Women: A-rise, a-rise, a-rise



Men: A-rise, a-rise, a-rise, Unison: a-rise, my soul, a-rise,
Women: A-rise, a-rise, a-rise



shake off your guilt - y fears and rise!

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:1-26

¹¹While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ²²Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'

Scripture is God's word to us, not human words about God. Reading scripture as if it were the writings of various persons throughout history giving their ideas or experiences of God, is perhaps the commonest mistake that is made in reading scripture. And the deadliest.
Eugene Peterson

²⁶God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

What We Have to Give

The Church that God Built

The first step in Christian preaching is to tell men and women that they and all their problems must always be considered in connection with God. That is the whole message of the Bible.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

We respond to God's kingdom breaking in to this world in Jesus Christ with praise "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.
 play; 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!
 Psalm 9

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper, resting in the work of Christ that restores and redeems us

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.

When we partake of the cup in faith it is the Lord's own certification to us that all that the new covenant in his blood involves is ours. It is the seal of his grace and faithfulness.

John Murray

"Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

1. Strick - en, smit - ten, and af - flict - ed, see him dy - ing on the tree! 'Tis the
2. Tell me, ye who hear him groan - ing, was there ev - er grief like his? Friends, through
3. Ye who think of sin but light - ly nor sup - pose the e - vil great here may
4. Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, here the ref - uge of the lost; Christ's the

5. Christ by man re - ject - ed; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he! 'Tis the
6. fear, his cause dis - own - ing, foes in - sult - ing his dis - tress; man - y
7. view its na - ture right - ly, here its guilt may es - ti - mate, Mark the
8. Rock of our sal - va - tion, his the name of which we boast. Lamb of

9. long ex - pect - ed Proph - et, Da - vid's son, yet Da - vid's Lord; by his
10. hands were raised to wound him, none would in - ter - pose to save; but the
11. sac - ri - fice ap - point - ed, see who bears the aw - ful load; 'tis the
12. God, for sin - ners wound - ed, sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall

13. Son God now has spo - ken: 'tis the true and faith - ful Word.
14. deep - est stroke that pierced him was the stroke that Jus - tice gave.
15. Word, the Lord's A - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
16. ev - er be con - found - ed who on him their hope have built.

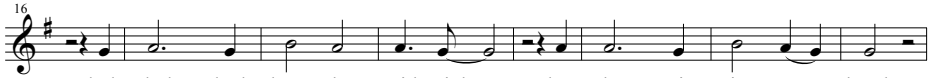
"The Sands of Time are Sinking"



1. The sands of time are sink - ing, the dawn of heav - en breaks,
 2. The King there in his beaut - y with - out a veil is seen;
 3. O Christ, he is the foun - tain, the deep sweet well of love!
 4. The bride eyes not her gar - ment, but her dear bride - groom's face;
 5. O I am my be - lov - ed's, and my be - lov - ed is mine!



the sum - mer morn I've sighed for, the fair sweet morn a - wakes;
 it were a well - spent jour - ney though sev'n deaths lay be - tween:
 The streams on earth I've tast - ed more deep I'll drink a - bove;
 I will not gaze at glo - ry, but on my King of grace;
 He brings a poor vile sin - ner in - to his house of wine.



dark, dark had been the mid - night, but day - spring is at hand,
 the Lamb with his fair ar - my doth on Mount Zi - on stand,
 there to an o - cean ful - ness his mer - cy doth ex - pand,
 not at the crown he giv - eth, but on his pierc - ed hand:
 I stand up - on his mer - it; I know no oth - er stand,



and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
 and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
 and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
 the Lamb is all the glo - ry of Em - man - uel's land.
 not e'en where glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land! (repeat twice)

He brought me to
 the banqueting
 house,* and his
 banner over me
 was love.
 Song of Solomon 2

*Hebrew: house of
 wine

We leap for joy at the work of his hands 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.

We turn back to God, coming to him in prayer for his kingdom to break into this world in the life of his church

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 repentance. It is the turning of our face away from ourselves and towards God in all things.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We praise God that we are being changed from glory into glory as he finishes his work in us in Christ Jesus

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled__breast;
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us__be:

5

fix in us thy hum - ble__dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies__crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion, per - fect - ly re - stored in__thee;

9

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of__sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga__be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to__glo - ry, 'till in heav'n we take our place,

13

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its Be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.
 pray, and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glor - ry in thy per - fect__love.
 'till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and__praise.

God promises to look at us, his children

Leader: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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.

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

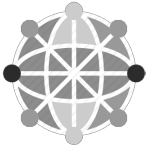
2 Corinthians 3



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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Shannon Van Dyke, *voice*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Wagner Sgobbi, *piano*; Jake Paris, *guitar*

"Now Unto Jehovah" music ©2009 Gregory D. Wilbur. Words: Psalm 29, verse 1, The Psalter, 1912, verses 2-4, Book of Psalms, 1871. Music: Gregory D. Wilbur, 2009.

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“Live more like Jesus Christ”

Mahatma Gandhi’s advice to
Christian missionaries in India

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory