

September 8, 2019

Here Comes Trouble
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Walking in communion with God can be a rough, tough experience. Trouble will come, Jesus had warned again and again, but especially for you *because you are my disciples.*

Derek Thomas
Welsh Presbyterian pastor

Open to me the gates of
righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:19-24

Allegiance to the glorified Christ is
what determines membership in
the true people of God.

David Peterson
Australian NT scholar

As you come to him, a
living stone rejected by men
but in the sight of God chosen
and precious, you yourselves like
living stones are being built up as a
spiritual house, to be a holy
priesthood, to offer spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5

We are saved by the man of God's
choosing, and we are saved only
on God's terms. But we are 'saved':
Jesus is the complete Saviour,
sufficient to meet all the sinner's
spiritual needs before God.

Guy Prentiss Waters
NT scholar

"But before all this they
will lay their hands on you and
persecute you, delivering you up to the
synagogues and prisons, and you will be
brought before kings and governors for my
name's sake. This will be your opportunity to
bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not
to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I
will give you a mouth and wisdom, which
none of your adversaries will be able
to withstand or contradict."

Luke 21:12-15

"And when they
bring you before the
synagogues and the rulers
and the authorities, do not be
anxious about how you should
defend yourself or what you
should say, for the Holy Spirit will
teach you in that very hour
what you ought to say."

Luke 12:11-12

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

People: **I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."**

Psalms 91 and 145

Leader: The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

People: **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

We call on the Lord in truth, speaking his praise "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; thee 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.

We do not
worship because
we feel like
worshipping. We
worship because
God has called us
to worship him.
Worship is an act
that develops our
feelings for God,
not a feeling that
we express in an
act.

"Call Jehovah Your Salvation"

Bm A G A F#m G

1. Call Je - ho - vah your sal - va - tion, rest be - neath th'Al - migh - ty's shade;
 2. From the sword at noon-day wast-ing, from the noise-some pes - ti - lence,
 3. Since, with pure and firm af - fec - tion you on God have set your love,

Bm A G A F#m Bm

in his se - cret hab - i - ta - tion dwell, and ne - ver be dis - mayed:
 in the depth of mid - night blast - ing, God shall be your sure de - fense:
 with the wings of his pro - tec - tion he will shield you from a - bove:

G D/F# A Bm G F#m A Bm

there no tu - mult shall a - larm you, you shall dread no hid - den snare:
 he shall charge his an - gel le - gions watch and ward o'er you to keep;
 you shall call on him in trou - ble, he will hear - ken, he will save;

G D/F# A G D/F# F#m Bm

guile nor vi - o - lence can harm you, in e - ter - nal safe - guard there.
 though you walk through hos - tile re - gions, though in des - ert wilds you sleep.
 here for grief re - ward you dou - ble, crown with life be - yond the grave.

Because he holds
 fast to me in love, I
 will deliver him; I
 will protect him,
 because he knows
 my name. When
 he calls to me, I
 will answer him; I
 will be with him in
 trouble; I will
 rescue him and
 honor him. With
 long life I will
 satisfy him and
 show him my
 salvation.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to humble ourselves before him

Thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Isaiah 57
James 4

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

We humble ourselves, mourning our sin as we confess it 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.

contrite

[kən'trīt, 'käntrīt]

feeling remorse
guilt, regret, and
sorrow—for our sin

God declares that he has drawn near to us and taken our sin upon himself in Jesus Christ

Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53

We mourn the death of Christ because it was our sin that required it. Yet we rejoice because he is not dead. We have his victory over the grave as the guarantee of our own victory in him.

We draw near to God as we mourn what our sin cost: the death of Jesus Christ

"O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile"

1. O come and mourn with me a - while; O and
 2. Sev'n times he spoke sev'n words of love;
 3. O break, O break, hard heart of mine! Thy
 4. A bro - ken heart, a fount of tears, ask,

4
 come ye to the Sa - vior's side; O come, to - ge - ther let
 all three hours his si - lence cried for mer - cy on the souls
 weak - self - love and guilt - y pride his Pi - late and his Ju -
 and they will not be de - nied; a bro - ken heart love's cra -

7
 us __ mourn: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied.
 of __ men: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied.
 - das __ were: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied.
 - dle __ is: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied.

10
 2 & 4
 Chorus: O love of __ God! __ O sin __ of __ man! __ In

13
 this dread __ act __ your __ strength __ is __ tried, __ and vic - to - ry __ re - mains

16
 with __ love: Je - sus, our Lord, is cru - ci - fied!

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Acts 4:1-22

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." ¹⁸So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." ²¹And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²²For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

Our services are filled with Scripture, in reading, singing, praying, and responding, because it is God's word in which he reveals himself. We read from all of Scripture as a testimony of the unity and importance of every part of the Bible, that all Scripture is breathed out by God.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Here Comes Trouble

The Church that God Built

It is not the Bible
itself, but the Bible
in the hands of the
Holy Spirit that
manifests the
power of God. The
Holy Spirit
displays the power
of God in his Word
through the
human agency of
Scripture
explained.

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead

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.

John 10:7-19

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

In the Lord's Supper we partake of the benefits of the great redemptive act of history: Christ's death on the cross. We are united to Christ so much so that the Apostle Paul can say we have been crucified with him –and if we are crucified with him, we are raised with him (Romans 6).

Set your hope fully
on the grace that
will be brought to
you at the
revelation of Jesus
Christ.
1 Peter 1

"In Christ Alone"



1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my Light, my Strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground his bo - dy lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death: this is the pow'r of Christ in



4 Song. This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and
babe. This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones he came to
slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the grave he rose a -
me. From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -



8 storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
save: 'til on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
gain! And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his



12 cease! My Com - for - ter, my all in all: here in the love of Christ I stand.
fied. For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.
me. For I am his, and he is mine: bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
hand. 'Til he re - turns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll _____

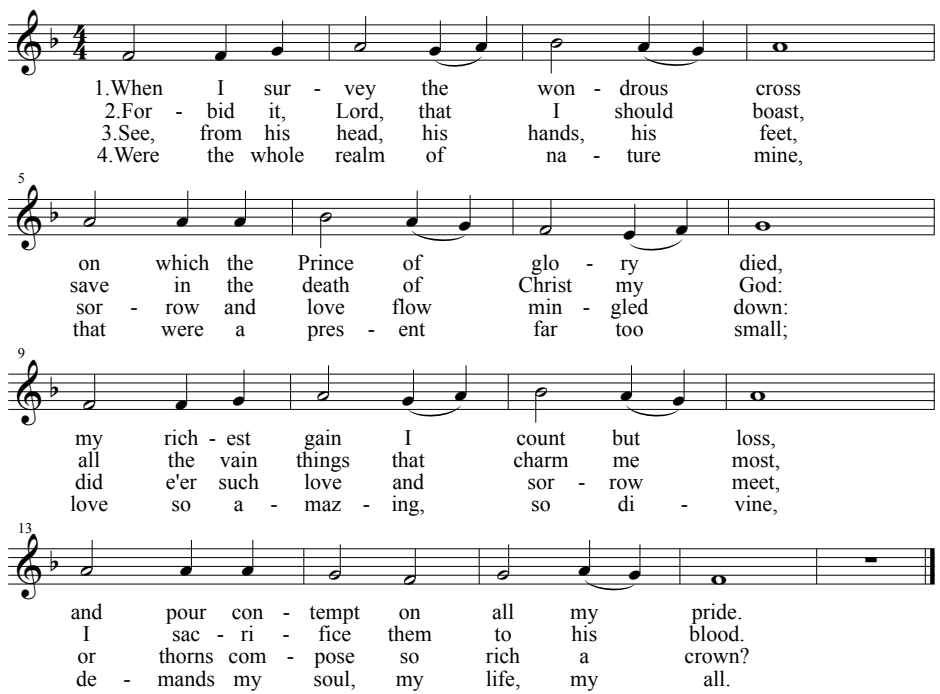


18 stand. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his hand. 'Til he re -



23 turns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

We bear witness to Christ boldly before the watching world as we give to him a gift far too small: our tithes and our offerings “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”



1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast,
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,

5
on which the Prince of glo - ry died,
save in the death of Christ my God:
sor - row and love flow min - gled down:
that were a pres - ent far too small;

9
my rich - est gain I count but loss,
all the vain things that charm me most,
did e'er such love love sor - row meet,
love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,

13
and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
Galatians 6

We pray that our lives would proclaim Jesus Christ in every circumstance

*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 praise God that his name would be forever blessed by our confessing him before the world

"For All the Saints"

"Blessed indeed,"
says the Spirit,
"that they may rest
from their labors."
Revelation 14

1. For all the saints who from their
2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress,
3. O may thy sold - iers faith - ful,
4. The gol - den eve - ning brigh - tens
5. But lo! there breaks a yet more
6. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's

la - bors rest, who thee by faith be - fore the
and their might; thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the
true, and bold fight as the saints who no - bly
in the west; soon, soon to faith - ful war - riors
glo - rious - day; the saints tri - um - phant rise in
far - thest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the

world con - fessed; thy name, O Je - sus, be for -
well - fought fight; thou, in the dark - ness drear, their
fought of old, and win with them the vic - tor's
comes their rest; sweet is the calm of par - a
bright ar - ray; the King of glo - ry pass - es
count - less host, sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

e - ver blessed: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
one true light: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
crown of gold: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
dise the blest: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu!
on his way: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu.
Ho - ly Ghost: Al - le - lu - ia Al - le

10 6

lu - - - - - ia.

God promises to work within us for his glory doing more abundantly than we all that we ask or think

Leader: Now may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

People: Amen

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

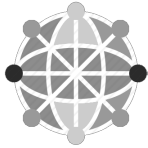
This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us.



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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Peter and John boldly proclaimed
Jesus to the very men who had
condemned him to death. Why do
I find it so hard to bear witness to
Christ before my friends?

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory