

September 22, 2019

God Be With You

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The church is different because it is an assembly of God's people in his very presence. The assembling of the church is a meeting with God as well as with fellow believers. The assembly is an extraordinary, supernatural event.

Paul E. Engle
Presbyterian pastor

But there will be no poor among you; for the LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess...

Deuteronomy 15:4

It is the church that is willing to die to worldly standards that will know the power of Christ's resurrection. It may be envied for its depth of loving relationships, or for its spontaneous joy. It may be hated and persecuted for its revolutionary lifestyle, exposing the hollow values and destructive selfishness of the society it seeks to serve: but it certainly cannot be ignored.

A. W. Tozer
20th century pastor and author

And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

Jeremiah 32:38-39

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... In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

1 John 3:16-18; 4:10-12

We must have hearts that are harder than iron if we are not moved by the reading of this narrative. In those days the believers gave abundantly of what was their own; we in our day are content not just jealously to retain what we possess, but callously to rob others... They sold their own possessions in those days; in our day it is the lust to purchase that reigns supreme. At that time love made each man's own possession common property for those in need; in our day such is the inhumanity of many, that they begrudge to the poor a common dwelling upon earth, the common use of water, air and sky.

John Calvin
16th century French-Swiss pastor and theologian

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

Psalms 103 & 104

Leader: 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.

People: **O LORD, my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.**

Leader: He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; he makes his messengers winds; his ministers a flaming fire.

We bless the Lord

"How Great Thou Art"

1. O Lord, my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, and hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the worlds thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rol-ling
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-


thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played. Then sings my
gran-deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze.
bear-ing, he bled and died to take a-way my sin.
ra-tion, and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my


soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

God calls us to worship him by reminding us of his glory. When we truly accept who he is, we have no choice but to respond in worship.


"Glorious and Mighty"



1. Maj-es-ty, your glo - ry is shin - ing bright - er than the
 2. Maj-es-ty, you fash - ioned the heav - ens, your de - crees can
 3. Maj-es-ty, we'll sing with cre - a - tion when you come a -



4 moon and the stars. Mar-vel - ling, we ho - nor and fear you a -
 nev - er be changed. O - ver all the plans of the na - tions your
 gain in the clouds. Ev - 'ry knee will bow down and wor - ship the



7 bove all gods. Glo - ri-ous and might - y, you're awe-some in beau - ty;
 judg-ments reign.
 one true God.



13 joy - ful songs we raise. Glo - ri-ous and might - y, you're awe-some in



19 beau - ty, great - ly to be praised!

Sing to the LORD,
 bless his name;
 tell of his salvation
 from day to day.
 Declare his glory
 among the
 nations, his
 marvelous works
 among all the
 peoples!...
 Splendor and
 majesty are before
 him; strength and
 beauty are in his
 sanctuary.

Psalm 96

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

The great and holy God calls us to admit our sin, to sorrow over our failings, and to draw near to the throne of grace

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."

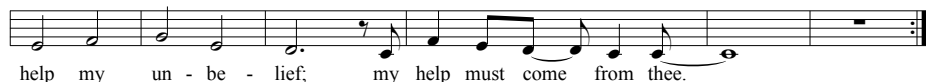
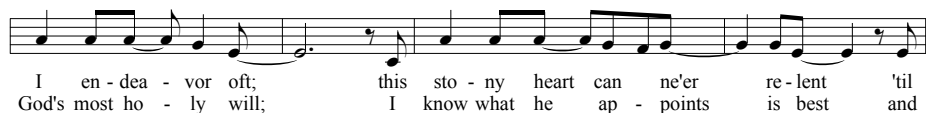
Isaiah 57

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

In sorrow over our sin we draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need

"Help My Unbelief"



And Jesus said to him, "If you can't! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Mark 9

God declares his amazing love in Jesus Christ

1 John 3, 4

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us...In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

We rejoice in the great love of God in Jesus Christ

“Amazing Love”

1. My Lord, what love is this that paid so dear - ly, that
2. And so they watched him die, des - pised, re - ject - ed. But,
3. And now this love of Christ shall flow like riv - ers. Come

I, the guil - ty one, may go free? A - maz - ing love, o what
oh, the blood he shed flowed for me!
wash your guilt a - way; live a - gain!

sac - ri - fice; the Son of God giv'n for me! My debt he paid and my
death he died, that I might live, that I might live!

God shows his
love for us in that
while we were still
sinners, Christ
died for us.
Romans 5

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

³²Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-5:11

^{5:1}But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ²and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." ⁵When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

⁷After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Who is to
condemn? Christ
Jesus is the one
who died—more
than that, who was
raised—who is at
the right hand of
God, who indeed
is interceding for

US.
Romans 8

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

God Be With You
The Church that God Built

The penetrating power of the Bible resides not only with its nature as God's Word but also its purpose in God's hands. It is the Holy Spirit that makes it an active energy within the soul.

We respond like the heavenly hosts to God's presence with us: singing out in praise of our God

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

1. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y! Ear - ly in the
 2. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee, cast - ing down their
 3. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee, though the eye of
 4. Holy, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y! All thy works shall

morn - ing our song shall rise to thee. Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
 gold - en crowns a-round the glass - y sea; cher-u - bim and ser-a-phem
 sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see, on-ly thou art ho - ly;
 praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Mer - ci - ful and might-y! God in three Per-sons, bless-ed Trin - i - ty!
 fall-ing down be - fore thee, who wert, and art, and ev - er-more shalt be.
 there is none be - side thee per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 Mer - ci - ful and might-y! God in three Per-sons, bless-ed Trin - i - ty!

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Revelation 4

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

First, the Law requires a heart and mind totally submitted to and absorbed in God alone (Deut. 6:5). Second, it requires that we must meet the needs of others, with all the speed, the eagerness, the energy, and the joy with which we meet our own (Lev. 19:18).
Tim Keller

We live in God's presence with great grace as his love abides in us giving ourselves to one another by giving 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 cry out to God in prayer to live in his presence with great power, great grace, and great fear

*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 experience God's presence visibly, tangibly, and really in the Lord's Supper

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.

"Who is This, So Weak and Helpless"




1. Who is this, so weak and help - less, child of low - ly He - brew
 2. Who is this, a Man of Sor - rows, walk - ing sad - ly life's hard
 3. Who is this? Be - hold him shed - ding drops of blood up - on the
 4. Who is this that hangs there dy - ing while the rude world scoffs and




5
 maid, rude - ly in a sta - ble shel - tered, cold - ly in a man - ger
 way, home - less, wea - ry, sigh - ing, weep - ing o - ver sin and Sa - tan's
 ground! Who is this, des - pised, re - ject - ed, mocked, in - sult - ed, beat - en,
 scorns, num - bered with the mal - e - fac - tors, torn with nails, and crowned with



9
 laid? 'Tis the Lord _____ of all cre - a - tion, _____ who this
 sway? 'Tis our God, _____ our glo - rious Sav - ior, _____ who a -
 bound? 'Tis our God, _____ who gifts and grac - es _____ on his
 thorns? 'Tis our God _____ who lives for - ev - er _____ 'mid the



12
 won - drous path_ has trod; he is God _____ from ev - er -
 bove _____ the star - ry sky is for us _____ a place pre -
 church _____ is pour - ing down; who shall smite _____ in ho - ly
 shin - ing ones on high, in the glo - rious gold - en



15
 last - ing, and to ev - er - last - ing God.
 par - ing, where no tear can dim the eye.
 ven - geance all his foes be - neath his throne.
 cit - y, reign - ing ev - er - last - ing - ly.

The wonder of the Table is this: we neither drag Christ back down to earth nor "celebrate his absence," but rather...find ourselves drawn up by the Spirit and united to the Heavenly Christ.
 Reggie Kidd

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We respond with great joy to the presence of our God

"Joy to the World"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
 Psalm 98

God proclaims the promise of his presence now and for all time

Leader: He will keep you from stumbling and present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, now to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

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.*

Jude 24-25

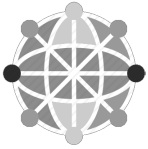
A benediction is a pronouncement of God's blessing; hence, the minister stands with hands outstretched, and an appropriate posture is for the worshipper to stand with their hands open, palms upward, to receive God's blessing as he promises.



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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Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Beth Almquist, *piano, voice*; Wagner Sgobbi, *piano*; Jake Paris, *guitar*

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God's promise: his presence, not
just when I want it, giving all I want,
but even when I don't want it,
giving all he desires.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory