

**September 29, 2019**

# Saddled Up by the Spirit

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Without joy, no gospel.

Otto Bauernfeind  
20<sup>th</sup> century German theologian

Courage is being scared to death,  
but saddling up anyway.

John Wayne  
20<sup>th</sup> century actor

Christian joy is neither produced nor circumscribed by circumstances. Its root is Jesus Christ. Every occasion the Christian has to bring glory to the name of Jesus is an occasion for joy, whether that occasion is pleasant or difficult.

Guy Prentiss Waters  
NT scholar

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**Matthew 5:11–12**

"But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them... And you will be hated by all for my name's sake."

**Mark 13:9, 13**

NonChristians get courage by forgetting reality; Christians get courage by *remembering* reality

Tim Keller  
Presbyterian pastor

In the shorter run evil plans sometimes succeed, while good ones conceived in accordance with the will of God sometimes fail. So the Gamaliel principle is not a reliable index to what is from God and what is not.

John Stott  
British Reformed Anglican pastor and theologian

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning."

**John 15:26-27**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

**1 Peter 4:12–14**

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Romans 6  
Psalm 95

**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! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

**We rejoice in our great God and King as we come and make a joyful noise to him, the rock of our salvation** “Come, People of the Risen King”



1. Come, peo - ple of the ri - sen King, who de - light to bring him praise; come,  
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing in the night; come,  
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wo - men of the faith; come,



all, and tune your harps to sing to the Mor - ning Star of grace. From the  
those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For his  
those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his grace. O - ver



shift - ing sha - dows of the earth we will lift our eyes to him, where  
per - fect love will nev - er change, and his mer - cies nev - er cease, but  
all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them call the



stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to ga - ther chil - dren in. Re -  
fol - low us through all our days with the cer - tain hope of peace.  
truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our God is all in all!"



joyce! Re - joice! Let ev - 'ry tongue re - joice! One heart, one



voice; O church of Christ re - joice!

When the church gathers for corporate worship, we do not call God to come to be with us. Rather, we gather because God summons us to come to him so that he can remind us of his greatness and his steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ.

"Rejoice, the Lord is King"

1. Re - joi - ce, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -  
2. Je - sus the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and love; when  
3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the  
4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit, and  
5. Re - joi - ce in glor - ious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and

6  
joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er more.  
he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.  
keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n.  
bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.  
take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

10  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - joi - ce, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

Rejoice in the Lord  
always; again I will  
say, rejoice.  
Philippians 4

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## **God reminds us of his call on us: to die to sin in Christ and live to him through Christ**

You also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness... For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **We live in Christ confessing our sin**

*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 life and peace for us through the blood of Christ**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself...For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Romans 6

The only way we are able to come before God is through Jesus Christ. The amazing love of Christ's death on the cross was the perfect sacrifice which satisfied the Father's justice. This he gives us by his free grace, completely unearned and undeserved by us.

2 Corinthians 5  
Colossians 1

**We rejoice and wonder at God's grace that washes us in the blood of Jesus to make peace between us and him**

"Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder"



1. Let us love and sing and won - der,  
 2. Let us love the Lord who bought us,  
 3. Let us sing, though fierce temp - ta - tion  
 4. Let us won - der, grace and jus - tice  
 5. Let us praise, and join the cho - rus



let us praise the Sa - vior's name!  
 pit - ied us when en - - e - mies,  
 threat - ens hard to bear us down,  
 join and point to mer - cy's store;  
 of the saints en - throned on high;



He has hushed the law's loud thun - der,  
 called us by his grace and taught us,  
 For the Lord, strong sal - va - tion,  
 when through grace our trust is,  
 here they trust - ed him be - fore us,



he has quenched Mount Si - nai's flame: he has  
 gave us ears and gave us eyes: he has  
 holds in view the con - qu'ror's crown: he who  
 jus - tice smiles and asks no more: he who  
 now their prais - es fill the sky: "Thou hast



washed us with his blood, he has washed us with his blood, he has  
 washed us with his blood, he has washed us with his blood, he has  
 washed us with his blood, he who washed us with his blood, he who  
 washed us with thy blood, thou hast washed us with thy blood, thou hast



washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.  
 washed us with his blood, he pre - sents our souls to God.  
 washed us with his blood, soon will bring us home to God.  
 washed us with his blood, has se - cured our way to God.  
 washed us with thy blood; thou art worth - y, Lamb of God!"

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."...Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree."

Galatians 3

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." <sup>21</sup>And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." <sup>24</sup>Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup>And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." <sup>26</sup>Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

<sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For before these days Theudas rose up,

Acts 5:12–42

In Scripture Jesus cries out to us, "Come to me." We come to him, the Word made flesh (John 1), as we come to the Word of God, the Bible. It is here that he confronts us with all the glory of God.

claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup>So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup>and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

**Sermon**

Rev. Per Almquist

## **Saddled Up by the Spirit**

The Church that God Built

The Christian life is  
full of difficulties,  
full of pitfalls and  
snares. That is why  
we need the  
Scriptures.  
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

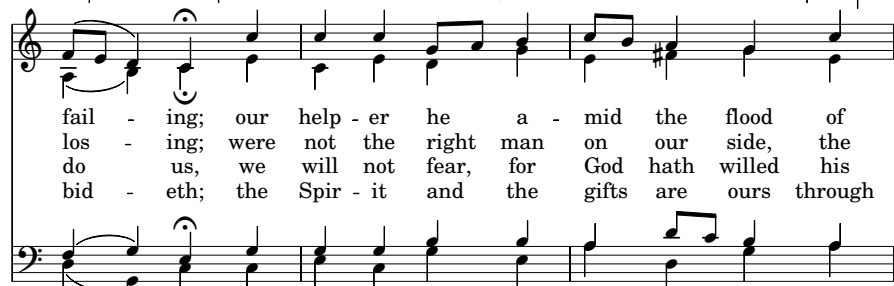


# We find refuge in our God in the face of all of life

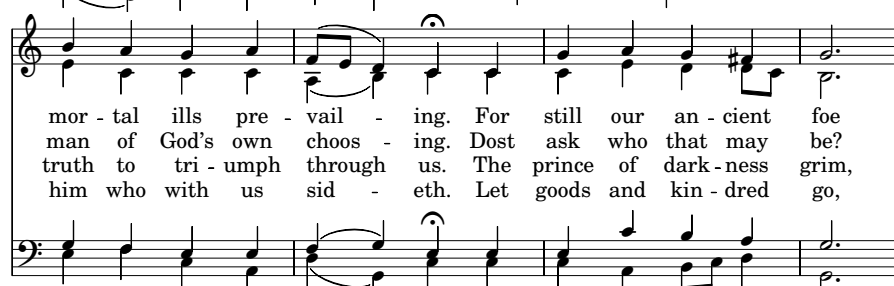
"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"



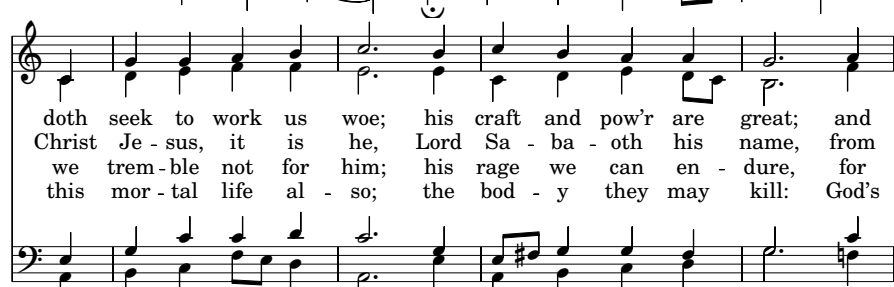
1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -



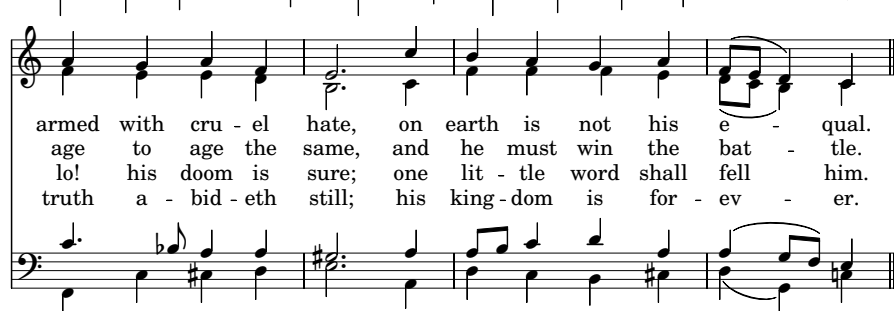
fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of  
los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the  
do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe  
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?  
truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,  
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great; and  
Christ Je - sus, it is he, Lord Sa - ba - oth his name, from  
we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure, for  
this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill: God's



armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
lo! his doom is sure; one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
truth a - bid - eth still; his king - dom is for - ev - er.

God is our refuge  
and strength, a  
very present help  
in trouble.  
Psalm 46

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## GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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The Lord's Supper seals to the participant the great love of Christ...It assures the believing participant... that he was personally the object of that incomparable love.  
Louis Berkhof

### **We experience the presence of God as we obey his command, see his promises, and know the joy that is ours in Christ as we celebrate 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.*

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 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.

**We give our tithes and offerings to God as we are empowered to live in the courage that is ours through his presence by his Spirit**

*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 he would grant us the courage to be faithful in the face of life**

“Abide with Me”

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven -  
 2. Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst  
 3. I need thy pres - ence, ev - 'ry pass - ing  
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to  
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing

3  
 tide; the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -  
 smile, and, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean -  
 hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's  
 bless: ills have no weight, tears lose their bit - ter -  
 eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the

6  
 bid- When oth-er help-ers fail, and com-forts  
 while, thou hast not left me, though I've oft left  
 pow'r? Who like thy-self my guide and stay can  
 ness. Where is thy sting, death? Where, grave, thy vic-to-  
 skies. Heav'n's morn-ing breaks, and earth's vain shad-ows

9  
 flee, help of the help-less, a-bide with me.  
 thee; on to the close, Lord, a-bide with me.  
 be? Through cloud and sun-shine, a-bide with me.  
 ry? I tri-umph still; a-bide with me.  
 flee: in life, in death, Lord, a-bide with me.

12  
 me; in life, in death, Lord, a-bide with me.

Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.  
 1 John 3

# GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

**We seek God and his presence alone as the source for the courage to face life**

“Be Thou My Vision”



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
4. High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought by day or by night,  
thou my great Fa - ther and I thy true son;  
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wa - king or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
High King of hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  
Colossians 3

## God proclaims the promise of his presence with us for his glory

**Leader:** May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**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.*

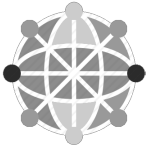




## Welcome to Free Grace

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



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Connor Crawford, *voice*; Dan Crawford, *voice*; Millie Kidd, *piano*

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"Be Thou My Vision" Public Domain. Ancient Irish hymn.

Which frightens you more: seeing the storms of life raging around you and threatening to swamp you, or actually seeing the power of God at work in your life?

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory