

October 6, 2019

Imperative Praise

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

For our “[church] services” both in their conduct and in our power to participate, are merely attempts at worship; never fully successful, often 99.9 per cent failures, sometimes total failures. We are not riders but pupils in the riding school; for most of us the falls and bruises, the aching muscles and the severity of the exercise, far outweigh those few moments in which we were, to our own astonishment, actually galloping without terror and without disaster.

C.S. Lewis

20th century British apologist, professor, literary critic,
and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*

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
into his courts! Worship the
LORD in the splendor of
holiness; tremble before
him, all the earth!
Psalm 96:7–9

There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship.

David Foster Wallace
postmodern writer

Shout for joy to God,
all the earth; sing the glory
of his name; give to him
glorious praise! Say to God,
“How awesome are your deeds! So
great is your power that your
enemies come cringing to you. All
the earth worships you and sings
praises to you; they sing
praises to your name.”
Psalm 66:1–4

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!”
And whenever the living creatures give glory and
honor and thanks to him who is seated on the
throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four
elders fall down before him who is seated on the
throne and worship him who lives forever and
ever. They cast their crowns before the throne,
saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to
receive glory and honor and power, for
you created all things, and by your will
they existed and were created.”
Revelation 4:8–11

The way of discipleship that
begins in an act of repentance
concludes in a life of praise.

Eugene Peterson
Presbyterian pastor and author

How is it possible that an
encounter with a majestic,
awesome living God could ever be
considered boring by anyone? God is
not dull. If worship is boring to us it is
not because God is boring.

R.C. Sproul
Presbyterian theologian

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: What is man's primary purpose?

People: To glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Leader: So make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God!

People: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Westminster Shorter
Catechism #1
Psalm 100

We come into his presence with singing, knowing that the Lord is God

"All People that on Earth do Dwell"

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2. The Lord ye know is God in - deed; with -
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap -
4. For why? The Lord our God is good, his

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with fear, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

praise forth - tell, come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

It is the joy of God's people to sing praises to him. There is none like him and one day his glory will be clearly seen and all people will come and worship him, acknowledging that he alone is God. Our worship this morning is a taste of that day.

"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.

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.
 Psalm 146

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God reminds us of who we are

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one..." for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...But...we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Romans 3
1 John 2

We confess that we are not righteous for we have sinned

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.

propitiation
|prəˌpi sh ē'ā sh ən|

the sacrifice that bears, and exhausts, the wrath of God for sin

God declares that the One who is righteous took our sin once for all

As it is, Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself... And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 9 & 10

We rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ

"It is Finished"

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
John 19



1. Hark, the voice of love and mer - cy sounds a - loud from Cal - va - ry!
2. "It is fin - ished," o what plea - sure do these charm - ing words a - ford.
3. Fin - ished all the types and sha - dows of the cer - e - mon - ial law.
4. Tune your harps a - new, ye ser - aphs, join to sing the pleas - ing theme.



See, it rends the clouds a - sun - der, shakes the earth and veils the sky!
Heav'n - ly bless - ings with - out mea - sure flow to us from Christ the Lord.
Fin - ished all that God had pro - mised; death and hell no more shall awe.
Saints on earth, and all in hea - ven, join to praise E - man - uel's name.



"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," hear the dy - ing Sav - ior cry.
"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," saints the dy - ing words re - cord.
It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished: saints from hence your com - fort draw.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!



"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," hear the dy - ing Sav - ior cry.
"It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished," saints the dy - ing words re - cord.
It is fin - ished, it is fin - ished: saints from hence your com - fort draw.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, glo - ry to the bleed - ing Lamb!

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

A Psalm for giving thanks.

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Psalm 100

² Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

³Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

⁴...and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 5:4-14

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

Preaching is not about eloquence or entertainment. Preaching is letting God's Word loose, so that by its power it changes our lives.

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Sermon

Rev. Mark Weathers

Imperative Praise

Rev. Mark Weathers
pastors Providence
Presbyterian
Church in Concord,
NC. Prior to this, he
and his wife served
as missionaries in
Guayaquil,
Ecuador. Rev.
Weathers enjoys
teaching, art,
cooking with his
wife, and hiking in
the mountains with
his family.

We respond to God the only way that is fitting: singing his 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

The sacraments are reminders of the historical reality of Christ's redemption. They embody concretely the reality of our faith... By faith the sacraments present to our senses the touch of the unseen, the foretaste of heaven's feast with the Lord.
Edmund Clowney

We get a foretaste of the heavenly feast, praising God 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.

Hebrews 10:11-14

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Revelation 5:6-14

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

"Before the Throne of God Above"



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong, a per - fect
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair, and tells me of the guilt with -
 3. Be - hold him there! the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less Right - eous -



plea, a great High Priest whose name is Love, who e - ver lives and pleads for
 in, up - ward I look and see him there, who made an end to all my
 ness, the great un - change - a - ble I AM, the King of Glo - ry and of

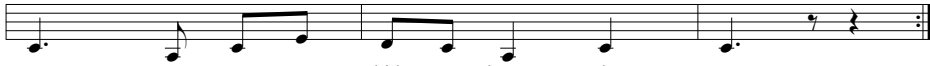


me. My name is gra - ven on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
 sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 grace! One with him - self I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased by his



heart; I know that while in heav'n he stands, no tongue can bid me thence de -
 free; for God, the just, is sat - is - fied, to look on him and par - don
 blood; my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my

Last time: *DS al fine*



part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 me, to look on him and par - don me.
 God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

For 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

We join the heavenly chorus of praise 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 cry out to God in praise, coming to him in prayer that we may live a life of praise

*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.*

True Christian
prayer is always a
preoccupation
with God and his
glory.
John Stott

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We enter his courts with praise for the Lamb who was slain

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, rich
 3. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, who
 4. Crown him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Fa - ther known; one
 5. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time; Cre -

how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own! A -
 wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied. No
 rose vic - tor - ious to the strife for those he came to save. His
 with the Spi - rit, through him giv'n, from yon - der glo - rious throne. To
 a - tor of the rol - ling spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime. All

wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
 an - gel in the sky can full - y bear that sight, but
 glor - ies now we sing, who died and rose on high, who
 thee be end - less praise, for thou for us hast died; be
 hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! for thou hast died for me: thy

hail him as thy match - less King, through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 down - ward bends his wond' - ring eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died e - tern - al life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thou, O Lord, through end - less days a - dored and mag - ni - fied.
 praise shall ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

And whenever
 the living creatures
 give glory and
 honor and thanks
 to him who is
 seated on the
 throne, who lives
 forever and ever,
 the twenty-four
 elders fall down
 before him who is
 seated on the
 throne and worship
 him who lives
 forever and ever.
 They cast their
 crowns before the
 throne, saying,
 "Worthy are you,
 our Lord and God,
 to receive glory
 and honor and
 power...

Revelation 4

God renews the promise of his presence with his people

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.*

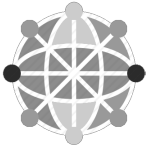
2 Corinthians 13



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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Connor Crawford, *voice*; Sarah Clarke, *voice*; Millie Kidd, *piano*; Joanne Crosby, *flute*

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The true reality of our praise is not how loudly we sing at church, but how we live when we are not at church.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory