

November 17, 2019

Gossiping the Good News

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Kill us, torture us, condemn us, grind us to dust; your injustice is the proof that we are innocent... The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed.

Tertullian
2nd-3rd century theologian

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 1:7-8

The government of the Church of Christ has been so divinely constituted from the beginning that the Cross has been the way to victory, death the way to life.

John Calvin
16th century French-Swiss pastor and theologian

But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Genesis 50:19-20

No matter where members of the new community are, mission follows.

Darrell Bock
NT scholar

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:13-17

New birth into God's kingdom usually involves people as spiritual midwives.

Will Metzger
Presbyterian pastor and campus minister
at the University of Delaware

The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession... but men and women who carried on their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those they met in this natural fashion.

Kenneth Latourette
20th century historian

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD, all the earth! 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!

People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

Psalms 96

Leader: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

People: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

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 into his courts!

People: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

We declare the glory of God, confessing his might

"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.

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.

Sing praises to the
LORD, who sits
enthroned in Zion!
Tell among the
peoples his
deeds!
Psalm 9

"O for a Thousand Tongues"

1. O for a thousand 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.
7. spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of thy name.
8. mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
9. blood can make the foul-est clean, his blood a-vailed for me.

10. He speaks and, list-'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-
11. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loos-en'd tongues em-

12. ceive; the mourn-ful bro-ken hearts re-joyce; the hum-ble poor be-lieve.
13. ploy; ye blind, be-hold your Sav-ior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to know ourselves, to see our failure to know and receive him

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken... "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand..." The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Isaiah 1
John 1

We cry out for God to show us our sin

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come"



1. Come, Ho-ly Spi-rit, come; let thy bright beams a-rise; dis-
2. Con-vince us of our sin, then lead to Je-sus' blood, and



pel the dark-ness from our minds and o-pen all our eyes.
to our wond'-ring view re-veal the se-cret love of God. *Chorus: Come,*



Ho-ly Spi-rit come! Give light to dark-ened eyes;



kin-dle in our hearts the flames of ne-ver dy-ing love. 3.'Tis



thine to cleanse the heart, to sanc-ti-fy the soul, to pour fresh life in
there-fore, in our hearts; our minds from bon-dage free, then we shall know and



ev-'ry part, and re-cre-ate us whole. 4. Dwell,
praise and love the Fa-ther, Son, and thee. *Chorus: Come, Ho-ly Spi-rit come! Give*



light to dark-ened eyes; kin-dle in our hearts the flames of ne-ver dy-ing love.

God declares his never dying love

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us... In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 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.

1 John 3, 4

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.
John 16

We rejoice in God's love made visible

"Thine Be the Glory"

"Death is swallowed up in victory."
"O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with -

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment
greet us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,
out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,
hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,
thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan

^{REFRAIN}
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;
to thy home a - bove.

end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

⁴Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was much joy in that city.

Acts 8:1-8

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Gossiping the Good News

The Church that God Built

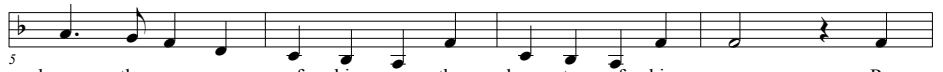
Preaching exists,
not for the
propagating of
views, opinions
and ideals, but for
the proclamation
of the mighty acts
of God.

James Stewart

We gossip the good news, proclaiming Christ in all of life "Lift High the Name of Jesus"



1.Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our King. Make
 2.Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Lord. His
 3.Lift high the name of Je - sus, of Je - sus our Light. No



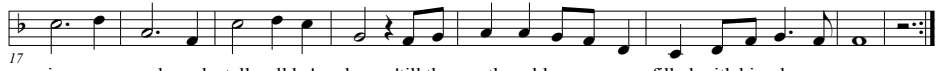
5 known the pow - er of his grace, the beau - ty of his peace. Re -
 pow'r in us is great - er than, is great - er than this world. To
 oth - er name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life. He



9 mem - ber how his mer - cy reached and we cried out to him. He
 share the rea - son for our hope, to serve with love and grace, that
 o - pens up our eyes to see the har - vest he has grown. We



13 lift - ed us to so - lid ground, to free - dom from our sin. Oh
 all who see him shine through us might bring the Fa - ther praise.
 la - bor in his fields of grace as he leads sin - ners home.



17 sing my soul and tell all he's done 'till the earth and heavens are filled with his glo - ry.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper proclaiming the death of Christ until he comes again

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.

1 Corinthians 15:1–4, 20-28

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

The Lord's Supper sets before us Christ crucified, who in the sacrament conveys to our faith all the blessings contained in the giving of his life for those who believe.

We give our tithes and offerings to God as a way of proclaiming Christ with our lives

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 praying that his kingdom would come, that he would work in us and through us to proclaim his glory

*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.*

In your prayer, beware above everything of limiting God, not only by unbelief but by fancying that you know what He can do.

Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do... and expect great things.

Andrew Murray

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We cry out that God would use us so that every one might know his name

"Let Your Kingdom Come"

1. Your glo-rious cause, O God, en - ga - ges our hearts.
2. Give us your strength, O God, and cour-age to speak.

5 May Je - sus Christ be known where - ev - er we are.
Per - form your won - drous deeds through those who are weak.

9 We ask not for our - selves, but for your re - nown.
Lord, use us as you want, what - ev - er the test.

13 The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your king - dom come."
By grace we'll preach your gos - pel 'till our dy - ing breath.

18 Let your king - dom come, — let your will be done. — so that ev - 'ry-one

24 — might know your Name. — Let your song be heard — ev - 'ry - where on earth,

30 — 'till your sov - 'reign work — on earth is done: — let your king - dom come! —

Pray then like this:
"Our Father in
heaven, hallowed
be your name. Your
kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in
heaven."
Matthew 6

God declares his promise that he has made us his kingdom, priests for his glory

Leader: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

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.*

Revelation 1



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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Sarah Clarke, *voice*; Dan Crawford, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano, violin*; Scotty Almquist, *piano*

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Telling the good news of Christ
should be as natural and pervasive
as telling the good news of your
child/grandchild's birth or winning
the lottery.



broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory

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