

January 19, 2020

God at Work

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

Plato
ancient Greek philosopher

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

God's grace cannot be overemphasized—the problem is that our idea of grace is a "that's okay" message rather than God's idea of grace—consistent, ever-faithful, relentless, constantly pursuing, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained, and furious love that loves me the way I am but loves me too much to let me stay that way.

Frank Johnson
Assemblies of God pastor

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... 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. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:1–5, 9–13

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6

Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

John 9:39–41

In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't.

Blaise Pascal
17th century French mathematician

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Sing to the LORD, all the earth! 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. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.**

1 Chronicles 16

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

People: **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"**

We rejoice with all the earth proclaiming the salvation of our God and the glory of our King

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



voice; O church of Christ re - joyce!

What a great thing for the world, for society, that one day out of seven people are called to leave the busy cares of merely material and worldly interests and to come up to the house of God where they are brought to think of things spiritual and eternal—where the thought of God, of right, of things that are true, just, pure, lovely, and of good report are brought to their attention and impressed upon their hearts and minds. Without it, what would become of us?
Francis Grimké

"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-joyce; the hum-ble poor be-lieve.
 ploy; 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 SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God declares our inability to rely upon ourselves for salvation

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...” If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Galatians 3
1 John 1

We confess our sin and rely on the work of Jesus Christ for life

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.

To live by grace means to acknowledge my whole life story, the good and the bad. In admitting my bad side I learn who I am and what God's grace truly means.

God assures us of his grace: that we are a new creation by his grace in Christ

In God we have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth...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.

Ephesians 1
2 Corinthians 5

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 sing out for our sin to lead us to Jesus Christ

"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 SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

Acts 9:1-19a

Why do we use so much Scripture in our worship?

All Scripture is
breathed out by
God and profitable
for teaching, for
reproof, for
correction, and for
training in
righteousness, that
the man of God
may be
competent,
equipped for
every good work.
2 Timothy 3

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

God at Work

The Church that God Built

Scripture is God's
word to us, not
human words
about God.
Reading scripture
as if it were the
writings of various
persons
throughout history
giving their ideas
or experiences of
God, is perhaps
the commonest
mistake that is
made in reading
scripture. And the
deadliest.
Eugene Peterson

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We experience the grace of God uniting us to Jesus Christ by his Spirit as we celebrate the Lord's Supper

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, you proclaim that you are in covenant relationship with God, 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.

Ephesians 2:4-10

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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).

"Amazing Grace"

1. A - ma - zing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing

7
 wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am
 fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that grace ap -
 rea - dy come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus
 as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's

12
 found, was blind, but now I see.
 pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 far, and grace will lead me home.
 praise than when we'd first be - gun.

In love he
 predestined us for
 adoption to
 himself as sons
 through Jesus
 Christ, according
 to the purpose of
 his will, to the
 praise of his
 glorious grace,
 with which he has
 blessed us in the
 Beloved.
 Ephesians 1

We give our tithes and offerings as part of the life of radical grace that is ours in Christ Jesus

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.

Confronted by the risen Jesus Christ here and now, we come to him in prayer for his grace to work in our lives

*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.*

As God's people
we declare our
faith in him with
our words,
proclaiming the
substance of our
faith. We declare
our faith in deed
as we give our
offerings to God,
trusting in his
promise. And we
declare our faith as
we seek him in
prayer, asking that
he would work in
us, his church, our
community, and
the world.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We sing out of the One who is the grace of God to us

"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.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."
Acts 9

God assures us of his grace to us in Jesus Christ

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed you in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose you in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

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
Paul Martin
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke



Credits

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Meredith Stevens, voice; Joanne Crosby, flute; Beth Almquist, piano

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God's grace is not merely him being nice to you
and giving you what you want most of the time.
God's grace is the blinding, stop you in your tracks,
and take over your life reality of Jesus Christ.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory