

June 14, 2020

A Word of Encouragement

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

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...And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:3–4, 14

The life of the church was about the life God gave by grace.

Darrell Bock
NT scholar

Not only does the Christian life begin in grace, but it 'continues in grace' all the way to the end.

Guy Prentiss Waters
NT scholar

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Luke 24:44–48

The resurrection, the key to understanding the biblical story, becomes the key to our story as well, the key to a new way of understanding and living in the world.

Michael Williams
Presbyterian theologian

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

John 1:29–34

It is not enough to "proclaim Jesus." For there are many different Jesuses being presented today. According to the New Testament gospel, however, he is historical (he really lived, died, rose, and ascended in the arena of history), theological (his life, death, resurrection, and ascension all having saving significance), and contemporary (he lives and reigns to bestow salvation on those who respond to him). Thus the apostles told the same story of Jesus at three levels—as *historical* event (witnessed by their own eyes), as having *theological* significance (interpreted by the Scriptures), and as *contemporary* message (confronting men and women with the necessity of decision). We have the same responsibility today to tell the story of Jesus as fact, doctrine, and gospel.

John Stott
British Reformed Anglican theologian and pastor

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 come and make a joyful noise to 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,



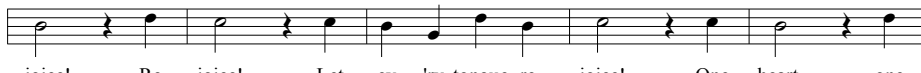
all, and tune your harps to sing to the Mor - ning Star of grace. From the
those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For his
those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his grace. O - ver



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!

The early church called Sunday the Lord's Day because it was on Sunday that Christ rose from the grave. So every Sunday we gather as his people and celebrate his resurrection and our hope in him.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

Galatians 3
James 2
1 John 1

God calls us to acknowledge our sin, our failure to do all that is required of us

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..." Whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it... 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.

So often
Christians act as if
they no longer sin.

The reality
Scripture teaches
is that those in
Christ are free
from slavery to sin.
We no longer face
death as the price
of our sin because
Jesus Christ took
our sin on himself.

And yet we
continue to sin. So
we cry out to God
through Jesus
Christ to be at
work in us. We
confess our
failings and ask
that we would live
in the strength of
Christ's death and
resurrection.

We confess our sin and our inability to be earn life in ourselves

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 our freedom from the obligations, the debt, of our sin and the life he gives us through Jesus Christ

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Christ, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2

We cling to Christ trusting in his work and not our own for life

"Rock of Ages"

Unison

Bm7

A

1. Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -
 2. Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fil thy
 3. Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy
 4. While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids

D Bm C#m7 F#m Bm7 E7 C#m7 F#m

self in thee; let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en
 law's de-mands; could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for -
 cross I cling; na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to
 close in death, when I soar to worlds un-known, see thee on thy

Bm7 E7 C#m7 F#m Bm A D C#m7 F#m

side which flowed, be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its
 ev - er flow, all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and
 thee for grace; foul, I to the Foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior,
 judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my -

Bm7 D/E E7 A E D/E A Fine

guilt and pow'r.
 thou a - lone.
 or I die.
 self in thee.

All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.
 1 Corinthians 10

"Not What My Hands Have Done"

Slowly



1. Not what my hands have done, can save my guilt - y soul;
 2. Thy work a - lone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
 3. Thy grace a - lone, O God, can to me can par - don speak;
 4. I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;

3
 not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.
 thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace with - in.
 thy pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can this sore bond - age break.
 he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.

5
 Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
 Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee;
 No oth - er work, save thine, no oth - er blood will do;
 Tis he who sav - eth me, and free - ly par - don gives;

7
 not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.
 can rid me of this dark un - rest, and set my spir - it free!
 no strength, save that which is di - vine, can bear me safe - ly through.
 I love be - cause he lov - eth me, I live be - cause he lives,

10
 1,2,3 4
 I love be-cause he lov-eth me, I live be-cause he lives!

...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.
 Ephesians 2

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹³Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, ¹⁴but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." ¹⁶So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

Acts 13:13-52

"Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. ²⁰All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²²And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' ²³Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶"Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. ²⁷For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. ²⁸And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³²And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

"'You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.'

³⁴And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

"'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

Our reading of Scripture in worship is a voicing of and a listening to God's Word proclaiming who he is and calling us to respond to him.

³⁵Therefore he says also in another psalm,

“You will not let your Holy One see corruption.”

³⁶For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, ³⁷but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. ³⁸Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

⁴¹“Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;
for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”

⁴²As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. ⁴³And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

⁴⁸And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

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

Sermon

A Word of Encouragement
The Church that God Built

Rev. Per Almquist

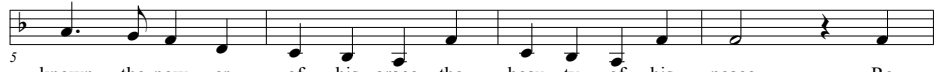
At some point and
in some way, a
sermon has to
direct people
toward the death
of Christ and the
campaign God
has waged over
the centuries to
get our attention.
Garrison Keillor

We join with the church in Antioch rejoicing and glorifying the one through whom we have 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



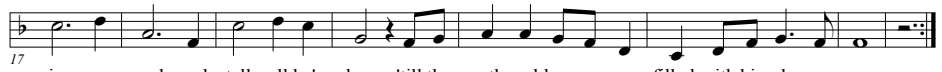
5 known the pow - er of his grace, the beau - ty of his peace. Re -
pow'r in us is great - er than, is great - er than this world. To
oth - er name on earth can save, can raise a soul to life. He



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.

A sacrament is a sign of participation in saving grace. It marks the presence and work of God in those who seek him through Jesus Christ enabling them to live boldly and faithfully for him.

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We lift high the name of Jesus as we give our tithes and offerings to him and declare that it is only through him that we have life

Heidelberg Catechism 1-2

Elder: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Elder: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are;
second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;
third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

We rest in Christ alone as we cry out to God in prayer for his work in us and this world

*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.

God declares us righteous and free through Jesus Christ as we proclaim his death, celebrating 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.

A sacrament is a sign of participation in saving grace. It marks not simply the presence and work of God, but his application of salvation to sinners.
Edmund Clowney

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We rest in Christ and Christ alone for life

"In Christ Alone"

Set your hope fully
on the grace that
will be brought to
you at the
revelation of Jesus
Christ.
1 Peter 1

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my Light, my Strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground his bo - dy lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death: this is the pow'r of Christ in

4 Song. This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the fier - est drought and
babe. This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones he came to
slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the grave he rose a -
me. From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -

8 storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
save: 'til on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
gain! And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his

12 cease! My Com - for - ter, my all in all: here in the love of Christ I stand.
fied. For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.
me. For I am his, and he is mine: bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
hand. 'Til he re - turns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll _____

18 stand. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his hand. 'Til he re -

23 turns, or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

God declares his blessing upon us in Jesus Christ

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.

Revelation 1

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

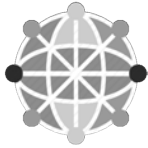
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



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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Connor Crawford, *voice*; Sarah Clarke, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *violin*; Kyle Almquist, *piano*

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If I claim an exclusive, passionate
commitment to God, why do I live like
a compulsive shopper running amok
at a flea market?

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory