

July 26, 2020

Worship God, the Ultimate Wedding Planner

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

There is a day coming, and it cannot be far from us, in which we shall meet lovingly in heaven, and sit at one feast: full fruition of God shall be the feast, and peace and love the sweet music that shall sound to it; and what folly it is for us to fight here who shall feast there!

William Gurnall

17th century English Anglican pastor and
author of *The Christian*
in *Complete Armour*

On the day of his marriage, when he would be best loved, Christ comes unto his Church robed in that garment in which he appears most lovely in her sight; and he draws out at that marriage supper, more fully than ever he did before, all the love of all his redeemed for whom he laid down his life.

Now, ye who care not for my Lord as a Substitute and a Sacrifice, will you be at the marriage supper when he appears as the Lamb? It is as the Lamb of God that you reject him; you are willing to take him, you say, as a Teacher, or as an Exemplar, but as the Sacrifice for sin you will not have him. Then, neither will he have you. In that great day, as you have disowned the vicarious sacrifice, he who was that sacrifice will disown you. There will be no marriage between your soul and Christ if you will not have him as the Lamb, for that marriage feast is to be the marriage of the Lamb, and of none else.

Charles Spurgeon

19th century Reformed Baptist preacher
known as the Prince of Preachers

Husbands,
love your wives, as
Christ loved the church and
gave himself up for her, that he
might sanctify her, having
cleansed her by the washing of
water with the word, so that he might
present the church to himself in
splendor, without spot or wrinkle
or any such thing, that she
might be holy and without
blemish.

Ephesians 5:25–27

And
I will betroth you
to me forever. I will
betroth you to me in
righteousness and in justice,
in steadfast love and in mercy. I
will betroth you to me in
faithfulness. And you shall
know the LORD.

Hosea 2:19-20

O h
come, let us
worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD,
our Maker! For he is our God,
and we are the people of his
pasture, and the sheep of
his hand.

Psalms 95:6–7

As an
apple tree among the
trees of the forest, so is my
beloved among the young men.
With great delight I sat in his
shadow, and his fruit was sweet to
my taste. He brought me to the
banqueting house, and his
banner over me was love.

Song of Solomon 2:3-4

Why do people in churches seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute?...Worship is dangerous...Does anyone have the foggiest idea of what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it?

Annie Dillard

Pulitzer Prize winning author

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 enter his courts with praise

"The God of Abraham Praise"

1. The God of Abraham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove, An -
 2. The God of Abraham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand from
 3. He by him - self has sworn, I on his oath de - pend; I
 4. The whole tri - um - phant host gives thanks to God on high; "Hail

5
 cent of ev - er - last - ing days and God of love, Je -
 earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand, I
 shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend. I
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry. Hail

9
 ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed; I
 all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r, and
 shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore, and
 Ab - raham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays;

13
 bow and bless the sa - cred name, for - ev - er blest.
 him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er more.
 might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

We worship because it is what we were made to do. At no other time are we more human, more alive, more complete than when we approach our God in the wonder of who he is.

"O for a Thousand Tongues"

F/A C F C Dm C F C7 F C

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

6 F F/A Bb F/C C7 F

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.
 mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 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 calls us to see our sin

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 18

We humble ourselves and admit our sin

Blessed Lord Jesus,
before your cross I kneel and see the heinousness of my sin,
my iniquity that caused you to be 'made a curse',
the evil that excites the severity of divine wrath.
Show me the enormity of my guilt by the crown of thorns,
the pierced hands and feet,
the bruised body,
the dying cries.
Your blood is the blood of incarnate God,
its worth infinite,
its value beyond all thought.
Infinite must be the evil and guilt that demands such a price.
Sin is my malady, my monster, my foe, my viper,
alive in my life,
strong in my character,
intermingling with my every thought.
Yet your compassions yearn over me,
your love endured my curse,
your mercy bore my deserved stripes.
Let me walk humbly in the lowest depths of humiliation,
bathed in your blood,
tender of conscience,
triumphing gloriously as an heir of salvation.
All this I ask, confident in the amazing love of your death and resurrection.
Amen.

When we humble ourselves we confess our sins and our need for Jesus Christ and God responds assuring us that Christ's death paid the price of our sin once for all. We are not forgiven again, rather we are reminded that Christ's sacrificial death guarantees our forgiveness once for all.

In Christ God exalts those who humble ourselves

Ephesians 1

In him 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.

redeem
|ri'dēm|

gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment; buy back
God is our redeemer, the one who bought us back from the wages of our sin (death) by paying those wages in the death of Christ.

We sing the triumph song of our Redeemer

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer"



I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, whose price - less blood has ran - somed
I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er; my life he bought, my love he
I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who car - ries me on ea - gle's



5 me. Mine was the sin that drove the bit - ter nails and hung him on that judge - ment
owns. I have no long - ings for a - no - ther; I'm sat - is - fied in him a -
wings. He crowns my life with lov - ing - kind - ness; his tri - umph song I'll ev - er



9 tree. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who crushed the pow'r of sin and
lone. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, his faith - ful - ness my stand - ing
sing. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who waits for me at gates of



13 death. My on - ly Sav - ior be - fore the ho - ly Judge: the Lamb who is my right - eous
place. Though foes are might - y and rush up - on me, my feet are firm, held by his
gold. And when he calls me, it will be par - a - dise: his face for - ev - er to be -



17 ness, the Lamb who is my right - eous - ness.
grace, my feet are firm, held by his grace.
hold, his face for - ev - er to be - hold. last time, repeat from *

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

Revelation 19:6-10

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;

⁸it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure”—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Sermon

Mr. Nathan Snyder

Worship God, the Ultimate Wedding Planner

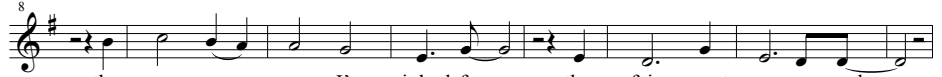
Nathan Snyder is a graduate of Covenant Theological Seminary and has served the church as a pastor. He currently teaches high school math in New Hampshire.

We eye our bridegroom

"The Sands of Time are Sinking"



1. The sands of time are sink - ing, the dawn of heav - en breaks,
2. The King there in his beaut - y with - out a veil is seen;
3. O Christ, he is the foun - tain, the deep sweet well of love!
4. The bride eyes not her gar - ment, but her dear bride - groom's face;
5. O I am my be - lov - ed's, and my be - lov - ed is mine!



the sum - mer morn I've sighed for, the fair sweet morn a - wakes;
it were a well - spent jour - ney though sev'n deaths lay be - tween:
The streams on earth I've tast - ed more deep I'll drink a - bove:
I will not gaze at glo - ry, but on my King of grace;
He brings a poor vile sin - ner in - to his house of wine.



dark, dark had been the mid - night, but day - spring is at hand,
the Lamb with his fair ar - my doth on Mount Zi - on stand,
there to an o - cean ful - ness his mer - cy doth ex - pand,
not at the crown he giv - eth, but on his pierc - ed hand:
I stand up - on his mer - it; I know no oth - er stand,



and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
and glo - ry, glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land.
the Lamb is all the glo - ry of Em - man - uel's land.
not e'en where glo - ry dwell - eth in Em - man - uel's land! (repeat twice)

He brought me to
the banqueting
house,* and his
banner over me
was love.

Song of Solomon 2

*Hebrew: house of
wine

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We taste the marriage supper of the Lamb 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.

Revelation 21:1-11

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Our invitation to the feast of God comes at a price: the precious blood of Jesus his Son. We are outsiders, enemies, excluded. But Jesus takes the judgment we deserve. He becomes the ultimate outsider—pushed out of the world onto the cross; forsaken by his Father. As a result we become insiders, friends, included.
Tim Chester

We give our tithes and offerings declaring with our lives that we are invited to the marriage supper only through the work of Jesus Christ

Canons of Dort, II.8

It was God's will that Christ through the blood of the cross (by which he confirmed the new covenant) should effectively redeem from every people, tribe, nation, and language all those and only those who were chosen from eternity to salvation and given to him by the Father; that he should grant them faith (which, like the Holy Spirit's other saving gifts, he acquired for them by his death); that he should cleanse them by his blood from all their sins, both original and actual, whether committed before or after their coming to faith; that he should faithfully preserve them to the very end; and that he should finally present them to himself, a glorious people, without spot or wrinkle.

The Canons of Dort were written in 1618-1619 to expound and defend the doctrine of the sovereign grace of God. We use it today to confess our faith that we find life only through Christ's death.

We taste our marriage supper with the Lamb as we come to God in prayer

*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 SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We reveal his grace more rich and free till we are raised to sing his name at the great supper of the Lamb

"Jesus, Everlasting King"



Je - sus, ev - er - last - ing King, ac - cept the tri - bute which we bring;
 ac - cept the well - de - served re - nown and wear our prais - es as your crown.

1. O send your Spir - it to im - part
 2. The glad - ness of re - demp - tion's day:
 3. May ev - ry time of wor - ship see
 4. O that the months would roll a - way

rest and re - pent - ance to our hearts,
 our hearts would wish it long to stay,
 your grace re - vealed more rich and free,
 and bring the cor - o - na - tion day;

like the dear hour, when from a - bove,
 nor let our faith for - sake its hold,
 till we are raised for - sing your name
 the King of grace shall fill the throne

we first re - ceived your pledge of love.
 nor com - forts sink, or love grow cold.
 at the great sup - per of the Lamb.
 with all his Fa - ther's glo - ries on.

But the LORD is
 the true God; he is
 the living God and
 the everlasting
 King.
 Jeremiah 10

God speaks his blessing upon his Bride

Leader: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb...
 Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with you, and
 you will be his people, and God himself will be with you as your God.

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.

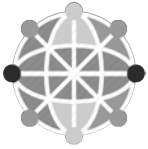
Revelation 19, 21



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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Dan Crawford, *voice*; Kyle Almquist, *piano*; Beth Almquist, *violin, voice*

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"The Sands of Time are Sinking" ©2001 Philip Palmertree Music. Words: Anne Cousin, 1857 (based on Samuel Rutherford's letters, 17th century). Music: traditional folk tune arr. Phillip Palmertree, 2001.

"Jesus, Everlasting King" ©2003 detuned radio music. Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, alt. Music: Matthew S. Smith, 2003.

The church is God's trophy bride. A trophy bride only because Christ cleaned her up, dressed her in the glorious dress of his righteousness, and presented her to himself with his splendor.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory

