

**August 2, 2020**  
A Very Important Psalm for the “Dead” and the “Living”  
*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Do not have your concert first, and  
tune your instruments afterward.  
Begin the day with God.

Hudson Taylor  
19<sup>th</sup> century British missionary to China

Heaven knows we need never be  
ashamed of our tears, for they are rain  
upon the blinding dust of earth,  
overlying our hard hearts.

Charles Dickens  
19<sup>th</sup> century English author

For  
God gave us a  
spirit not of fear but  
of power and love  
and self-control.  
**2 Timothy 1:7**

Peace I  
leave with you;  
my peace I give to  
you. Not as the world  
gives do I give to you. Let  
not your hearts be  
troubled, neither let  
them be afraid.  
**John 14:27**

All  
we like sheep  
have gone astray; we  
have turned—every one—  
to his own way; and the  
LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
**Isaiah 53:6**

For  
you did not  
receive the spirit of  
slavery to fall back into  
fear, but you have received  
the Spirit of adoption as  
sons, by whom we cry,  
“Abba! Father!”  
**Romans 8:15**

Above all, don't fear difficult  
moments. The best comes from them.

Rita Levi-Montalcini  
Italian Nobel Prize winning neurobiologist

Things get bad for all of us, almost  
continually, and what we do under the  
constant stress reveals who/what we are.

Charles Bukowski  
20<sup>th</sup> century German-American poet and author

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

**Leader:** Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**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!**

**Leader:** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

**People:** **Oh 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.**

**We come and worship for we are the sheep of his hand**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,  
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.  
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

7  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!  
shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth.  
Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.  
All that have life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

13  
All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw near;  
Hast thou not seen how all thy long - ings have been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - migh - ty can do,  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain;

18  
praise him in glad ad - or - a - tion.  
grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
if with his love he be - friend thee.  
glad - ly, for, aye, we a - dore him.

Isaiah 55  
Psalm 95

Our worship is a reflexive and a deliberate response to God's gracious call to come to him. When we come to him through Jesus Christ we experience the comfort, the peace, the strength, and the joy of his grace.

Let the sea roar,  
and all that fills it;  
the world and  
those who dwell in  
it! Let the rivers  
clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for  
joy together  
before the LORD,  
for he comes to  
judge the earth. He  
will judge the  
world with  
righteousness, and  
the peoples with  
equity.  
Psalm 98

# "Joy to the World"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## **God cries out to us that we have gone astray, that we have turned from him to our own way**

Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53

## **We confess our sin, our turning from God to our own way, and rest in the good Shepherd who was pierced for our transgressions**

*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.*

The wonder of the gospel is that though we rejected God turning to our own way instead, he came to us in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us back to himself. Our confession is an admission of both our rejection of him and his pursuing of us.

## **God calls his straying sheep to look to the good Shepherd who bore our sins**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

John 10  
1 Peter 2

# We rest in the covenant mercy of our good Shepherd having been healed by his wounds

"A Debtor to Mercy Alone"



A debt - or to mer - cy a - lone, of  
The work which his good-ness be - gan, the  
My name from the palms of his hands e -



cov - e - nant mer - cy I sing; nor fear, with thy  
arm of his strength will com-plete; his prom - ise is  
ter - ni - ty will not e - raise; im - pressed on his



righ - teous-ness on, my per - son and of - f'ring to bring. The  
yea and a - men, and nev - er was for - feit - ed yet. Things  
heart it re-mains, in marks of in - del - i - ble grace. Yes,



ter-rors of law and of God with me can have no - thing to do;  
fu-ture, nor things that are now, not all things be-low nor a-bove,  
I to the end shall en-dure, as sure as the ear - nest is giv'n;



my Sav - ior's o - be - dience and blood hide  
can make him his pur - pose for - go, or  
more hap - py, but not more se - cure, the



all my trans - gres - sions from view.  
sev - er my soul from his love.  
glo - ri - fied spir - its in heav'n.

In the strange  
mercy of God the  
cup of his  
righteous wrath is  
given into the  
hands, not of his  
enemies, but of his  
beloved Son. And  
he will drink it,  
down to the dregs  
until the moment  
comes when "I  
thirst" gives place  
to "It is finished".

Lesslie Newbigin

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# GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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A Psalm of David.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

Psalm 23

**Sermon**

Mr. Paul Martin

## A Very Important Psalm for the “Dead” and the “Living”

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

## We cling to our Shepherd, the wondrous love of God displayed “O Wondrous Love”

1.O won - drous love that will not let me go, I cling to  
2.O won - drous love that's come to dwell in me, Lord, who am

you with all my strength and soul, yet if my hold should ev - er  
I, that I should come to know your ten - der voice as - sur - ing

me fail, your won - drous love will nev - er let me go.  
will nev - er let me go.

I'm rest - ing in the ev - er - last - ing arms, in the ev - er - faith - ful heart,

the Shep - herd of my life. You'll car - ry me on your might - y wings of grace,

keep - ing me un - til the day I look in - to your eyes.

3.O won - drous love that sings of Cal - va - ry, the sweet - est  
4.O won - drous love that rush - es o - ver me, I can't es -

sound this sin - ner's ev - er known: the song of your re - deem - ing  
cape this riv - er's glo - rious flow; you o - ver - whelm my days with

Son, whose won - drous love will nev - er let me go.  
good: your won - drous love will nev - er let me go.

He himself bore  
our sins in his  
body on the tree,  
that we might die  
to sin and live to  
righteousness. By  
his wounds you  
have been healed.  
For you were  
straying like  
sheep, but have  
now returned to  
the Shepherd and  
Overseer of your  
souls.

1 Peter 2



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# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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## **We celebrate the Lord's Supper, coming to the table prepared for us by our Good Shepherd**

*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.*

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow  
With food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction, grace bestoweth:  
And O what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever.

Let us consider, then, that this sacrament is a singular medicine for all poor sick creatures, a comfortable help to weak souls, and that our Lord requires no other worthiness on our part, but that we unfeignedly acknowledge our naughtiness and imperfection.  
John Calvin

Psalms 23

As we say these  
verses together,  
we profess our  
faith in the God  
who spoke them  
and in Jesus Christ  
as his Son and our  
Savior. With them  
we declare that we  
are his people by  
his grace and we  
trust in no other.

**We give our tithes and offerings proclaiming our trust in God with our lives**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

**We come to God in prayer that our souls may be restored and that he may lead us in paths of righteousness for his name's sake**

*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 rejoice to be of his flock, the sheep of his pasture, welcomed into his fold:**

**Zion**

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

1. Glor - ious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on ci - ty of our God;  
2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,  
3. Blest in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on, washed in the Re - deem - er's blood,  
4. Sa - vior, if of Zi - on's ci - ty, I, through grace, a mem - ber am,

5  
he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode.  
well sup - plies thy sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.  
Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly on makes them kings and priests to God.  
let the world de - ride or pi - ty, I will glor - y in thy name.

9  
On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy  
Who can faint, while such a ri - ver ev - er flows their  
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to  
Fad - ing is the world - ling's plea - sure, all his boast - ed

12  
sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed,  
thirst to quench? Grace which, like the Lord, the gi - ver,  
reign as kings, and as priests, his sol - emn prais - es,  
pomp and show; sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sure

16  
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
ne - ver fails from age to age.  
each for a thank off - 'ring brings.  
none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

## **Zion**

Hebrew: "Fortress"

Used in the Old Testament for Jerusalem. In both Old and New Testaments it is used to refer to God's heavenly city, the dwelling place of God's people.

**God declares the promise and guarantee of his tender care for us through the great Shepherd of the sheep**

**Leader:** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory 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.*

Hebrews 13





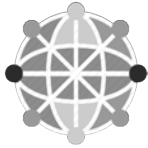


## Welcome to Free Grace

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.

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### 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



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Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Kyle Almquist, *piano*; Beth Almquist, *voice*

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"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" ©1998 Kevin Twit Music. Words: John Newton, 1779. Music: Kevin Twit, 1998.

The main purpose of a sermon is to bring men nearer to God and to each other—is to influence character and conduct so as to bring them more and more to conform to the character and life of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Scriptures.

Francis Grimké

19<sup>th</sup> century African-American Presbyterian pastor



broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory