



April 11, 2021

The Inescapable Network of Mutuality

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

He who would know anything of Christ must not trust himself nor build a bridge to heaven by his own reason; but he must go to the Church, attend and ask her. Now the Church is not wood and stone, but the company of believing people; one must hold to them, and see how they believe, live and teach; they surely have Christ in their midst.

Martin Luther
16th century German monk
and leader of the Protestant Reformation

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:11-16

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
20th century American Baptist minister
and leader of the civil rights movement

There must be clear recognition that we do not have all that the Lord wants us to have, until we receive what He gives us through every other believer.

Donald Grey Barnhouse
20th century American Presbyterian
pastor

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable...If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12:21-22, 26

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Helen Keller
20th century American author, activist,
and lecturer; the first deaf blind person to
earn a college degree

Love can not exist in isolation: away from others, love bloats into pride. Grace cannot be received privately: cut off from others it is perverted into greed. Hope cannot develop in solitude: separated from community, it goes to seed in the form of fantasies. No gift, no virtue can develop and remain healthy apart from the community of faith. "Outside the church there is no salvation" is not ecclesiastical arrogance but spiritual common sense, confirmed in everyday experience. Whenever persons attempt to live in defiance of it they are attenuated and impoverished. Submitting to it they are generously rewarded.

Eugene Peterson
20th century American Presbyterian pastor, author, and poet

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

People: When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

Psalms 146

Leader: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

People: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

We sing praises to our God and King

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

1 All cre - atures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
2 Thou ru - shing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n a -
3 Thou flo - wing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for thy Lord to
4 And all ye men of ten - der heart, for - gi - ving o - thers, take your
5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou bur - ning sun with gol - den
long, O__ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ri - sing morn in praise re -
hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and
part, O__ sing ye, Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row
ness, O__ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

beam, thou sil - ver moon with sof - ter gleam, O__ praise him, O__
joice, ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O__ praise him, O__
bright, that giv - est man both warmth and light, O__ praise him, O__
bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O__ praise him, O__
Son and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One, O__ praise him, O__

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

The gospel draws us into communal life with other people. Worship is a first-person-plural activity. It is extremely significant that in worship otherwise remarkably different people offer praise together, listen together, and profess one faith together.

Hallelujah

הללויה

Hebrew:

"Praise the Lord"

Alleluia

ἀλληλούια

The Greek transliteration of the Hebrew (the writing of the Hebrew word with the Greek alphabet)

"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"



1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -
2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es, Is - rael's God to
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -



ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through
be his aid; he is blest whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his
pris - ner free, rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less
ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es, of my God through



all my days. Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on
God is stayed. Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - a - ted, seas and all that
eyes to see. Well Je - ho - vah loves the right - eous, and the stran - ger
all my days. O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all ag - es



man de - pend; he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing,
they con - tain; he de - liv - ers from op - press - ion,
he be - friends, helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow,
he is King; un - to him, thy God, O Zi - on,



and his pur - po - ses shall end.
righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God confronts us with our sin

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

John 14

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.

1 John 1

We confess our sin

Leader: Lord, you said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

People: We confess that we have failed to keep your commands. Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.

Leader: Lord, you said, "You may ask for anything in my name."

People: Forgive us when we think we need to solve our own problems.

Leader: Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

People: We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.

Leader: Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

People: Forgive us our barren lives, Lord.

Leader: Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me."

People: We confess, Lord, that we have too often been silent.

Leader: Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

People: Forgive us for our lack of love for any other than ourselves, for thinking that we deserve your love while seeing so clearly how much others do not deserve it because of their sin. We confess that we love out of our sin instead of your grace.

In these and in so many other ways, we confess our failures and shortcomings, acknowledging our need for your grace that we do not deserve, and resting in your promise to cleanse us from all our righteousness. We rest in your love displayed in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confession of sin happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other. We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself.

Confession both acknowledges our need for grace and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

God declares our redemption, his buying us back by paying the wages of our sin

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot... when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

1 Peter 1

Galatians 4

redeem

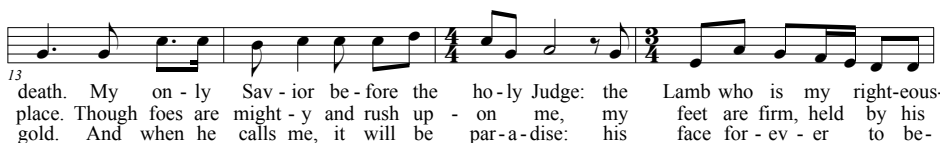
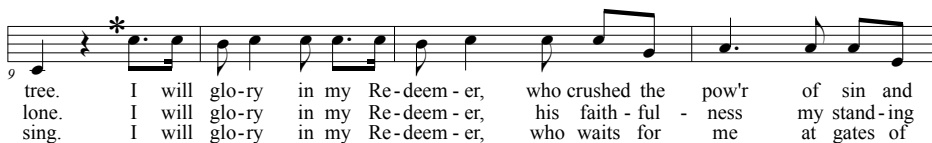
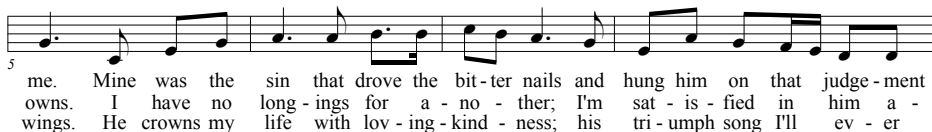
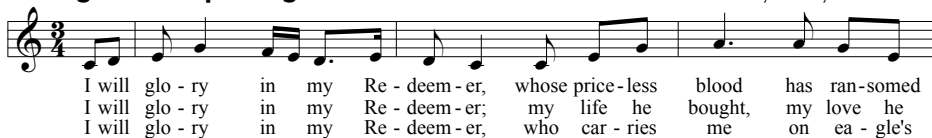
[ri'dēm]

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"



GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:4-8

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

The Inescapable Network of Mutuality

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

We revel in our interdependence built on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ

"The Church's One Foundation"



1. The chur - ch's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord; she
 2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth, her
 3. 'Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war, she
 4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One, and



is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word: from
 char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth: one
 waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - e - ver more; 'til
 my - stic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won: O



heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride; with
 ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food, and
 with the vi - sion glor - ious her long - ing eyes are blessed, and
 hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we, like

1. 2. 3.



his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 the great church vic - tor - ious shall be the church at rest.
 them, the meek and low - ly, on



high may dwell, that they will dwell, that we will dwell with thee.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper proclaiming that, united to Christ in his death and resurrection, we are united to one another

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.

We give our tithes and offerings to live out our mutuality as we offer our lives to God together as his Church

We believe and profess, one catholic or universal Church, which is a holy congregation, of true Christian believers, all expecting their salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed by his blood, sanctified and sealed by the Holy Ghost... Furthermore, this holy Church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or to certain persons, but is spread and dispersed over the whole world; and yet is joined and united with heart and will, by the power of faith, in one and the same spirit.

All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

We live the inescapable network of mutuality as we come to God in prayer for each other

*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*

Communion is, of all the actions of worship, a uniquely corporate event. We can sing alone, or study Scripture alone, or pray alone, but nobody does Communion alone for it is our celebration that we are united to Jesus Christ, and in him, to each other.

Belgic Confession, article 27

Westminster Confession of Faith, 26.1

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We glory to know the solid joys and lasting treasure of being the body of Christ

"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,



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.



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



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



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.

We live in interdependence through dependence on God

Leader: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of 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

Cover artwork: *La Sonata (Sonata)*, Marcel Duchamp, oil on canvas, 1911.

In *Sonata*, a painting begun at the family home in Rouen, France, Marcel Duchamp shows his sisters performing a musical recital. Yvonne plays the piano, Magdeleine is on the violin, and Suzanne sits in the foreground, while their mother attentively listens from behind. The intertwined, symmetrical composition and atmospheric color tonalities of the painting bring the sisters' two-part harmony to life in visual terms. This work marks the artist's first attempts at Cubism—a style he initially championed and emulated along with his brothers, Jacques Villon and Raymond Duchamp-Villon, and a group of likeminded artists working in and around Paris during the 1910s.
— Philadelphia Museum of Art

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Millie Barnard, voice; Joanne Crosby, flute; Kyle Almquist, piano

"All Creatures of Our God and King" Public Domain. Words: Francis of Assisi, c. 1225; translated William H. Draper, 1926. Music: Traditional German Tune, 1623, arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906.

"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah" ©1982 Darwin Jordan Music. Words: Psalm 146, The Psalter, 1912. Music: Darwin Jordan, 1982.

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer" ©2000 Sovereign Grace Worship. Words and Music: Steve and Vikki Cook, 2000.

"The Church's One Foundation" ©1996 Parson John Publishing. Words: Samuel Stone, 1866. Music: Brian Moss, 1996.

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

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder.
The gospel says that absence makes the
church grow weaker.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory