



**May 9, 2021**

# The Church that God Builds

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The starting point, the fundamental thing, is that Christianity is about Jesus...The Lord Jesus Christ is the theme of the preaching of the early church. He is the theme of the Gospel of Luke. He is the theme of the Acts of the Apostles.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones  
20<sup>th</sup> century Welsh medical doctor,  
pastor, and preacher

"You  
will receive power  
when the Holy Spirit  
has come upon you, and  
you will be my witnesses in  
Jerusalem and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and to the  
end of the earth."

**Acts 1:8**

There  
is one body and  
one Spirit—just as you  
were called to the one hope  
that belongs to your call—one  
Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all,  
who is over all and  
through all and in all.

**Ephesians 4:4-6**

The mission of the church, the  
reason we exist, is to bear witness to  
the present reign and rule of Christ,  
who is at the right hand of God.

R.C. Sproul  
Presbyterian theologian

But you are a chosen  
race, a royal priesthood, a  
holy nation, a people for his  
own possession, that you may  
proclaim the excellencies of  
him who called you out of  
darkness into his  
marvelous light.

**1 Peter 2:9**

And he is the head  
of the body, the church.  
He is the beginning, the  
firstborn from the dead, that  
in everything he might be  
preeminent.

**Colossians 1:18**

Behind the earthly lies a heavenly  
reality...The New Testament church is  
God's promise to his Son in eternity and is  
brought about by the work of Jesus' personal  
representative agent, the Holy Spirit.

Derek Thomas  
Welsh-American Presbyterian pastor

The 'kingdom' comes to its fullest and most  
visible expression in this age in the life of  
the people of God who are ruled by the  
Word of Christ and empowered by the  
Spirit of Christ.

Guy Prentiss Waters  
Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: 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!

Psalms 95

**People:** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

**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, worshipping and bowing down to our King**

"O Worship the King"

1. O wor - ship the King all glo - rious a - bove. and  
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose  
3. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It  
4. Frail child - ren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in

5  
grate - ful - ly sing his pow - er and his love. Our  
robe is the light, whose can - o - py space. His  
breathes in the air; it shines in the light; it  
thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail; thy

9  
shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pa -  
char - iots of wrath the thun - der - clouds form, and  
streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain; and  
mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end, our

13  
vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
dark is his path on the wings of the storm.  
sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.  
Ma - ker, De - fen - der, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

In our worship we give glory to God, praising him for who he is and what he has done. We also cry out for his presence with us—by his Spirit now as he promised and also when Christ returns in glory.

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

like the dear hour, when from a - bove,  
 nor let our faith for - sake its hold,  
 till we are raised to 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

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## **The everlasting King comes to call us, sinners, to repentance**

[Jesus] saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

Luke 5

And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."...

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3

## **We admit that we are not righteous, that we are sinners called by Jesus**

*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*

The Bible says that all people are sinners, fleeing from God. But in Jesus Christ we find peace and healing. In his death on the cross, he took our sin and paid the price for it. And so we come to him in faith, confessing our sin and need for him, trusting in his death alone to bring us life.

## **God declares his great mercy to us in our sin**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time...For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Peter 1

2 Corinthians 5

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

## We rejoice in God's mercy to us in Jesus Christ

"A Debtor to Mercy Alone"

A debt - or to mer - cy a - lone, of the  
My work which 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 - rase; 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 - feited 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.

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>17</sup>After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. <sup>18</sup>When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. <sup>19</sup>But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. <sup>20</sup>For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.” <sup>21</sup>And they said to him, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. <sup>22</sup>But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.”

Acts 28:17-31

<sup>23</sup>When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. <sup>24</sup>And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. <sup>25</sup>And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

<sup>26</sup>“Go to this people, and say,  
“You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”  
<sup>27</sup>For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed;  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.’

<sup>28</sup>Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”†

<sup>30</sup>He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup>proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

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.

†Some later manuscripts add verse 29: “And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, having much dispute among themselves.”

**Sermon**

Rev. Per Almquist

## **The Church that God Builds**

The Church that God Built

Preaching is not a  
conversation, a  
chat about some  
interesting ideas...

No! This is God  
speaking! He  
speaks through  
the stammering  
lips of the  
preacher where  
that preacher's  
mind is on the text  
of Scripture and  
his heart is in the  
presence of God.  
God, as Luther put  
it, lives in the  
preacher's mouth.

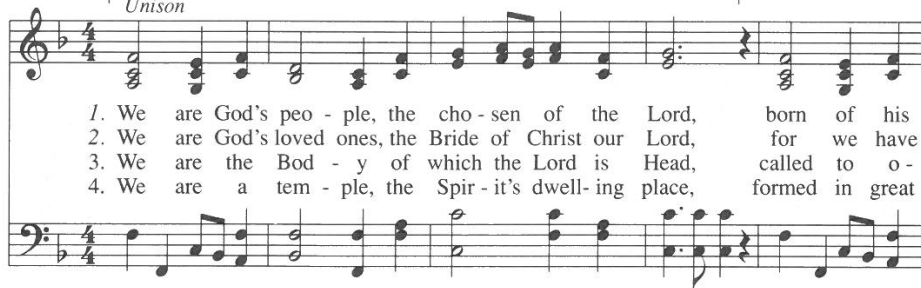
David Wells



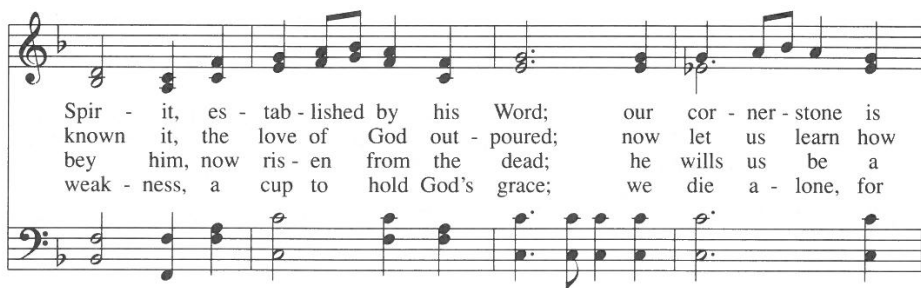
# We cry out to live as the Church that God is building

"We are God's People"

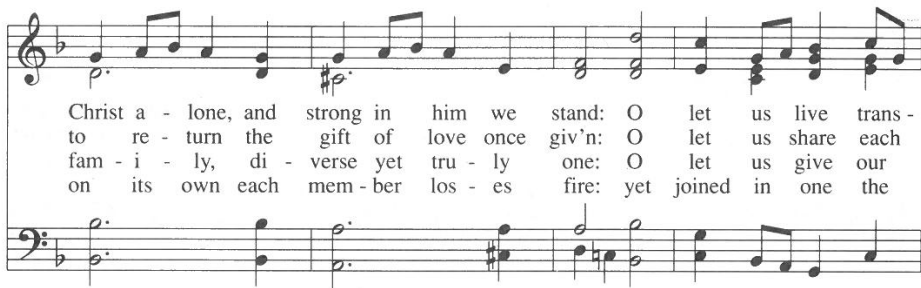
Unison



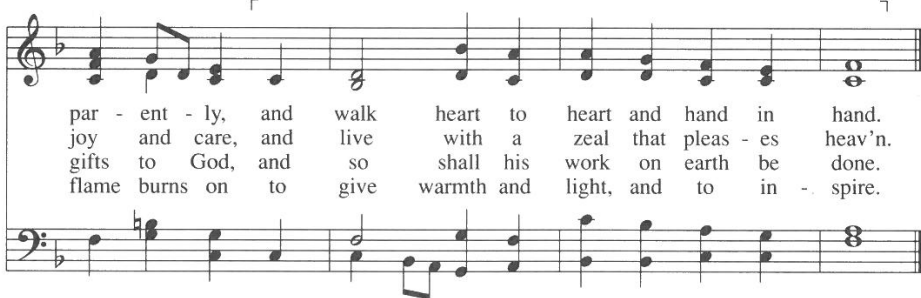
1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his  
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have  
 3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -  
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place, formed in great



Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is  
 known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how  
 bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a  
 weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for



Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -  
 to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each  
 fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our  
 on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the



par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.  
 joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.  
 gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.  
 flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Know that the  
 LORD, he is God!  
 It is he who made  
 us, and we are his;  
 we are his people,  
 and the sheep of  
 his pasture.

Psalms 100

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## GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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Godly souls can  
gather great  
assurance and  
delight from this  
Sacrament; in it  
they have a  
witness of our  
growth into one  
body with Christ  
such that whatever  
is his may be  
called ours.  
John Calvin

### **We come as the Church of the risen Christ united to him and through him to each other 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.

Zephaniah 3; Acts 2

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
"Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.  
The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.  
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.  
Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes," says the LORD...

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

**We give our tithes and offerings to God in acknowledgement that we are built on Christ alone**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Musical score for the hymn "The Church's One Foundation". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four systems of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she 2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her 3. 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she 4. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and is his new creation by water and the Word: from char-ter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth; one waits the consummation of peace for ever more; 'til my-stic sweet communion 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 4 high may dwell, that they will dwell, that we will dwell with thee.

**We come to God in prayer that we would be the Church that he builds on the foundation of Jesus Christ**

*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*

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 SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

**We sing out for God to build us into his Church that his kingdom would come here in Lewiston/Auburn**

"Let Your Kingdom Come"

1. Your glo-rious cause, O God, en-ga-ges our hearts.  
2. Give us your strength, O God, and cour-age to speak.

5 May Je-sus Christ be known where-ev-er we are.  
Per-form your won-drous deeds through those who are weak.

9 We ask not for our-selves, but for your re-nown.  
Lord, use us as you want, what-ev-er the test.

13 The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your king-dom come."  
By grace we'll preach your gos-pel 'till our dy-ing breath.

18 Let your king-dom come,— let your will be done.— so that ev-'ry-one

24 — might know your Name.— Let your song be heard— ev-'ry-where on earth,

30 — 'till your sov-'reign work — on earth is done: — let your king-dom come! —

Pray then like this:  
"Our Father in  
heaven, hallowed  
be your name. Your  
kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in  
heaven."  
Matthew 6

## God promises his power at work within us for his glory in Christ Jesus

**Leader:** Now may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**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.

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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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Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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If we wait until we're ready,  
we'll be waiting for the rest of our lives.

Lemony Snicket  
children's author

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory