



**June 13, 2021**

# Practicing the Christian Life: Prayer

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

In your prayer, beware above everything of limiting God, not only by unbelief but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, above all that we ask or think. Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do...and expect great things.

Andrew Murray  
19<sup>th</sup> century South African pastor

The whole miracle of divine grace is contained in this single word [Father].

Suzanne de Diétrich  
20<sup>th</sup> century French theologian

True answers to prayer are those that bring the greatest glory to God, not those that satisfy my immediate desires. It is all too easy to make Christianity a new magic in which we as gods can make God do our bidding.

Paul Hiebert  
20<sup>th</sup> century missionary to India

The single most important influence on the way we live the Christian life is *how we think of God*.

Sinclair Ferguson  
Scottish Presbyterian pastor and theologian

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

**Luke 11:1**

You are the sons of the Lord your God...See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

**Deuteronomy 14:1  
1 John 3:1**

Hypocrisy is a misuse of the *purpose* of prayer (diverting it from the glory of God to the glory of self); verbosity is a misuse of the very *nature* of prayer (degrading it from a real and personal approach to God into a mere recitation of words).

John Stott  
Reformed Anglican pastor and theologian

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

**Luke 11:11-13**

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

**Romans 8:16-17**

Remember that you are approaching the almighty, eternal, ever-blessed holy God. But remember also that that God, in Christ, has become your Father, who not only knows all about you in the sense that He is omniscient, He knows all about you also in the sense that a father knows all about his child. He knows what is good for the child. Put these two things together. God in his almightiness is looking at you with a holy love and knows your every need. He hears your every sigh and loves you with an everlasting love.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones  
20<sup>th</sup> century Welsh pastor

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

**Leader:** Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung. All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar.

**People:** **Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable.**

Job 36

**Leader:** For he draws up the drops of water; they distill his mist in rain, which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly. Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion?

**People:** **Behold, he scatters his lightning about him and covers the roots of the sea.**

**Leader:** For by these he judges peoples; he gives food in abundance. He covers his hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark. Its crashing declares his presence; the cattle also declare that he rises.

## We sing out, proclaiming the glory of our God

"How Great Thou Art"

1.O Lord, my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the  
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to me  
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the worlds thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rol-ling  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played. Then sings my  
gran-deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze.  
bear-ing, he bled and died to take a-way my sin.  
ra-tion, and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

God calls us to worship him by reminding us of his glory. When we truly accept who he is, we have no choice but to respond in worship.

"Immortal, Invisible"

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise; in;  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light; nor;  
 3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine;  
 light in - ac - ces - si - ble, hid from our eyes; most  
 want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy  
 an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all  
 bles - sed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -  
 praise we would moun - tains, the high O soar - ing a - bove; thy  
 migh - ty, vic - tor - ious, thy great name we praise!  
 clouds which are the foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

To the King of the  
 ages, immortal,  
 invisible, the only  
 God, be honor and  
 glory forever and  
 ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1

# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

## God calls us to submit to him

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God...Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

2 Corinthians 5

Hebrews 12

## We humble ourselves before God, admitting that we need God "Help My Unbelief"

I know the Lord is nigh, and would but can - not pray, for  
I would but can - not love, though wooed by love di - vine; no

Sa-tan meets me when I try, and frights my soul a - way, and  
ar - gu - ments have pow'r to move a soul as base as mine, a

frights my soul a - way. I would but can't re - pent, though  
soul so base as mine. I would but can - not rest in

I en - dea - vor oft; this sto - ny heart can ne'er re - lent 'til  
God's most ho - ly will; I know what he ap - points is best and

Je - sus makes it soft, 'til Je - sus makes it soft.  
mur-mur at it still, I mur-mur at it still.

Help my un - be - lief; help my un - be - lief;

help my un - be - lief; my help must come from thee.

And Jesus said to him, "If you can't!

All things are possible for one who believes."

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Mark 9

## God declares our righteousness in Jesus Christ

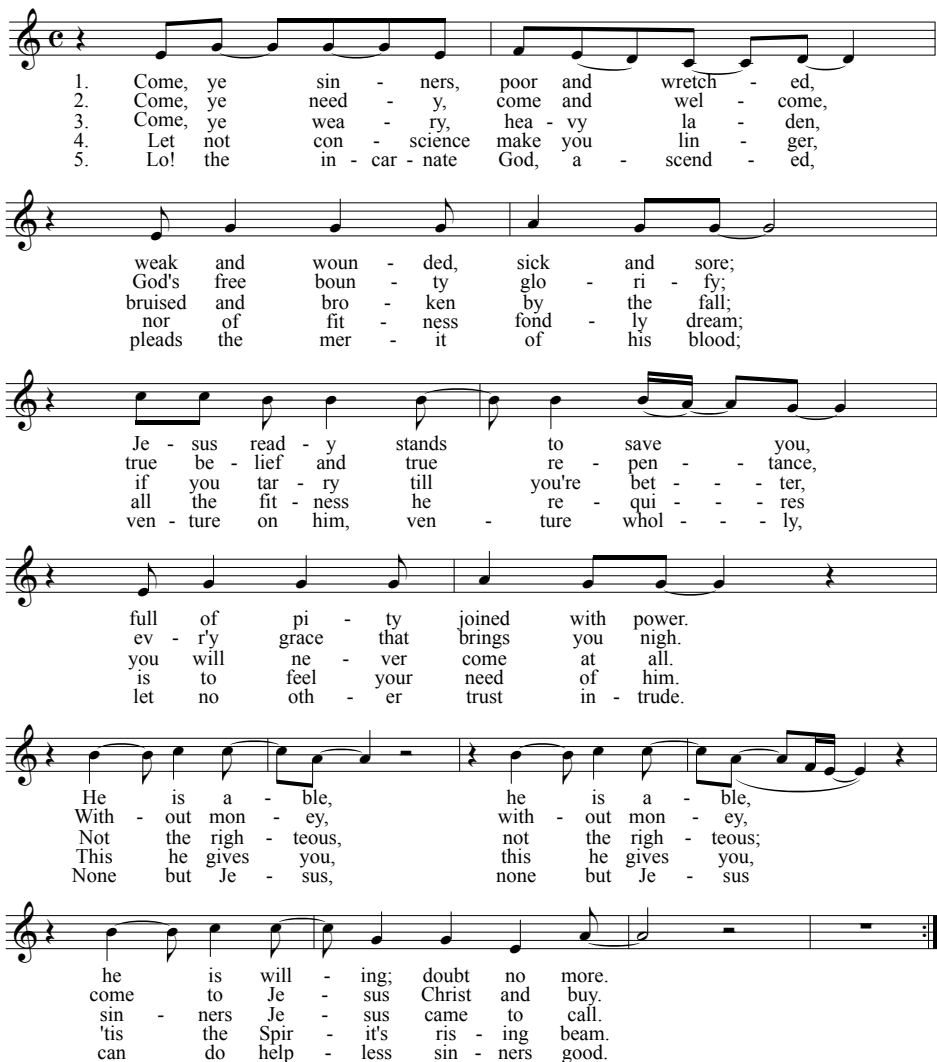
Mark 2

2 Corinthians 5

And as Jesus reclined at table in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."... For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## We come to Christ, our righteousness

"Come, Ye Sinners"



1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and wretch - ed,  
 2. Come, ye need - y, come and wel - come,  
 3. Come, ye wea - ry, hea - vy la - den,  
 4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger,  
 5. Lo! the in - car - nate God, a - scend - ed,

weak and woun - ded, sick and sore;  
 God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
 bruised and bro - ken by the fall;  
 nor of fit - ness fond - ly dream;  
 pleads the mer - it of his blood;

Je - sus read - y stands to save you,  
 true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,  
 if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,  
 all the fit - ness he you're re - qui - res  
 ven - ture on him, ven - ture whol - ly,

full of pi - ty joined with power.  
 ev - r'y grace that you nigh.  
 you will ne - ver come at all.  
 is to feel your need of him.  
 let no oth - er trust in - trude.

He is a - ble, he is a - ble,  
 With - out mon - ey, with - out mon - ey,  
 Not the righ - teous, not the righ - teous;  
 This he gives you, he gives you,  
 None but Je - sus, none but Je - sus

he is will - ing; doubt no more.  
 come to Je - sus Christ buy.  
 sin - ners Je - sus came and call.  
 'tis the Spir - it's ris - ing beam.  
 can do help - less sin - ners good.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11

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# GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup>Pray then like this:

Matthew 6:7-13

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread,

<sup>12</sup>and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.”

**Sermon**

Rev. Per Almquist

## Prayer

Practicing the Christian Life

The word of the living God makes things happen. As we sing in the hymn, “He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.”

## “Father, Long before Creation”

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.  
Ephesians 1

## Ephesians 1



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## GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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### **We celebrate the Lord's Supper, living as the children of God through the death of Jesus Christ**

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.

Psalm 25

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
O my God, in you I trust;  
let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.  
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.  
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O LORD,  
pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Romans 5

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Lord's Supper seals to the participant the great love of Christ...It assures the believing participant... that he was personally the object of that incomparable love.  
Louis Berkhof

**We live in relationship to God, giving our tithes and offerings to him in acknowledgement of his glory and resting in his grace**

**Leader:** What commitment is required to live in covenant relationship with God?

**People:** **Living in covenant relationship with God requires us to have no other gods before him. This requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; to worship and glorify him accordingly; to trust in him alone; with humility and patience submit to him; expect all good things from him only; and to love, fear, and glorify him with our whole heart.**

**Leader:** What do we reject by this commitment?

**People:** **We reject the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.**

**We pray as he taught us**

**People:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**Elder:** We draw near to you with confidence, coming through Christ as beloved children to a father able and willing to work in us. We rejoice in the wonder of who you are revealed in your name: the almighty and eternal God who is our righteousness, our shepherd, our provider, and so much more. We pray that your glory would shine forth in this world for all to see, even through the poor instruments of our lives.

**People:** **Let your kingdom come.**

**Elder:** May your saving reign be seen ever more clearly in this world as your church hungers and thirsts for your righteousness. Grow your church, the visible people of your kingdom, by drawing more to come and confess that you are King. We long for the day when faith shall be sight, and the kingdom of glory will burst forth, so we pray with the apostle John, come, Lord Jesus!

**People:** **Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Elder:** Father, your will reveals your glory, so we pray that you would rule us by your Word and Spirit. Strengthen us to do your will, to live out your love in our community. Break down the barriers we put up to seek our desires instead of yours. Reshape us by your grace until we truly live for you in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

**People:** **Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Elder:** We look to you to provide for all our physical needs, that we would know you as the only source of everything good. Teach us that neither our work and worry, nor your gifts, can do us any good without you. Grant us to look to you in all things.

**People:** **Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.**

**Elder:** We rejoice in the cleansing power of Christ's blood for our sins. Cause us to rest in his work alone, giving up our labors and efforts and showing his death and resurrection in our forgiving others.

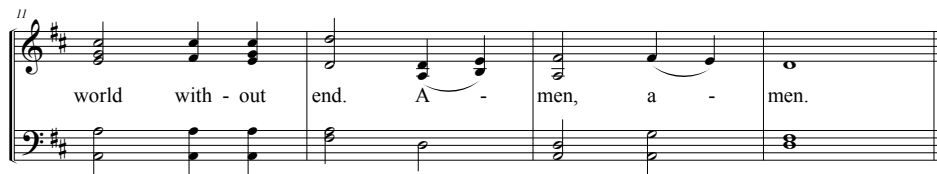
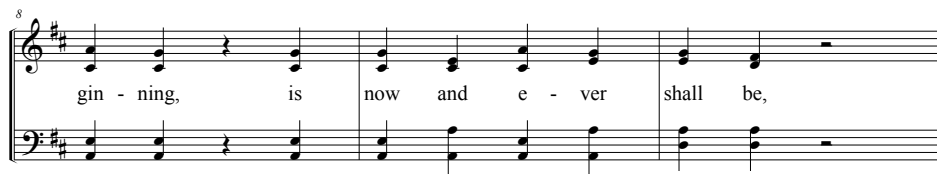
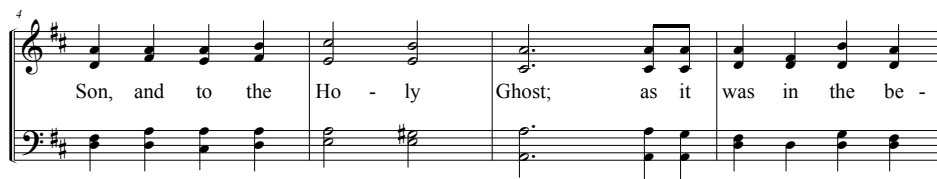
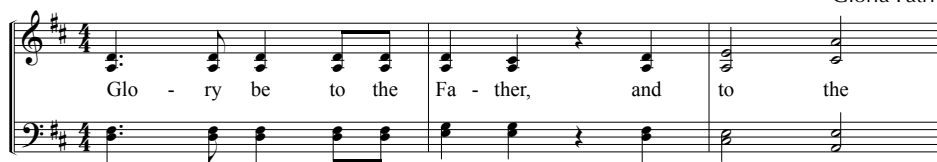
**People:** **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**Elder:** Father, we rest in your promise that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Guide and direct our steps that we may live for you alone.

**People:** **For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

True Christian  
prayer is always a  
preoccupation  
with God and his  
glory.  
John Stott

"Gloria Patri"



Ascribe to the  
LORD the glory  
due his name;  
worship the LORD  
in the splendor of  
holiness.  
Psalm 29

# GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

**We pray for God to work his glory and grace in us and through us**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

And we all, with  
unveiled face,  
beholding the  
glory of the Lord,  
are being  
transformed into  
the same image  
from one degree  
of glory to  
another. For this  
comes from the  
Lord who is the  
Spirit.  
2 Corinthians 3

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down:  
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled - breast;  
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be:

fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.  
sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver more thy tem - ples leave.  
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bles - sing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, 'till in heav'n we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.  
pray, and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, glor - ry in thy per - fect love.  
till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## **We receive the promise of our heavenly Father in Jesus Christ**

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed you in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose you in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Ephesians 1, 6

**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.

Just as we begin  
with God's  
gracious invitation,  
so we end with  
God's gracious  
blessing to his  
people. A blessing  
secured and  
poured out on us  
in the Child of  
Christmas, Jesus  
Christ.



## 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



## Credits

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Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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Today is one of 52 Sundays this year  
where something else will compete with  
Jesus for your attention and worship.  
Don't be fooled, Jesus is better.

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory

