



October 17, 2021

May I Present to You...
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

I really want to know (Who are you? Who, who, who, who?)

"Who Are You?" The Who
English rock band

[God] invites his people into the adventure of knowing him.

Elmer Martens

Canadian Mennonite Brethren pastor and OT scholar

The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.

Westminster Confession of Faith

In the beginning,
God created the
heavens and the
earth.

Genesis 1:1

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Psalms 148:5-6

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:9-10

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

Hosea 6:6-7

Covenant indeed shapes the biblical story from cover to cover. The biblical drama displays the fundamental, unfolding continuity of personal relationship. We may view covenant history not as a series of disconnected installments but as a single line. Each new covenant presupposes and renews what went before. Specifically, God's redemptive acts do not oppose or deny his creative intent, but come as restorative promises in relation to creation.

Michael Williams
Presbyterian theologian

During the creation week, all things, plants, animals, and persons are appointed to be covenant servants, to obey God's law, and to be instruments of His gracious purpose. Thus everything and everybody is in covenant with God... The Creator-creature relation is a covenant relation, a Lord-servant relation.

John Frame
Presbyterian theologian

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!

People: **Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**

Revelation 1, 4, 11

Leader: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

People: **We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.**

We sing praises to our God and King

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

1 All cre - a - tures 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__
 joyce, 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!

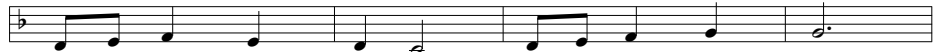
God's call to worship reminds us that he alone is worth worshipping. He alone is great beyond our comprehension. And he calls us to come to him and receive his gifts of grace through Jesus Christ.

"At the Name of Jesus"

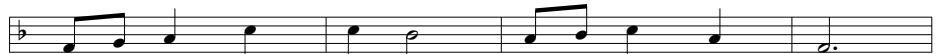
Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2



1. At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow;
2. At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight;
3. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
5. Bro - thers, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now.
all the an - gel fa - ces, all the hosts of light,
from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came.
all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign.



Tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
thrones and do - mi - na - tions, stars u - pon their way,
Faith - ful - ly he bore it, spot - less to the last,
Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour,
For all earth - ly po - wers meet u - pon his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the migh - ty Word.
all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed.
let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
and our hearts con - fess him King of Glo - ry now.



GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God proclaims what he requires of us and our ability to meet his requirements

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD...? Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

Deuteronomy 10

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, admitting that we do not love him, serve him, and keep his commandments

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.

When we hear what God requires of us we are faced with the fact that we have not done and can not do what he requires. So for our worship to be honest it must acknowledge our failure. This leaves us no other hope but his grace and mercy.

God declares that it is by his grace and mercy that our sin is forgiven

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Titus 3

We rest in his covenant faithfulness and not our own "Not What My Hands Have Done"



1. Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - y soul;
 2. Thy work a - lone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
 3. Thy grace a - lone, O God, to me can par - don speak;
 4. I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;



not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.
 thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace with - in.
 thy pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can this sore bond - age break.
 he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.



Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
 Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee
 No oth - er work, save thine, no oth - er blood will do;
 Tis he who sav - eth me, and free - ly par - don gives;



not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load,
 can rid me of this dark un - rest, and set my spir - it free!
 no strength, save that which is di - vine, can bear me safe - ly through.
 I love be - cause he lov - eth me, I live be - cause he lives,

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:26–31

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

May I Present to You...

The Grand Design

The penetrating power of the Bible resides not only with its nature as God's Word but also its purpose in God's hands. It is the Holy Spirit that makes it an active energy within the soul.

We respond the only way possible to God's grace in establishing his covenant relationship with us: with praise

"My Maker and My King"



My Ma - ker and my King, to thee my all I owe; thy
 The crea - ture of thy hand, on thee a - lone I live; my
 Lord, what can I im - part when all is thine be - fore? Thy
 O let thy grace in - spire my soul with strength di - vine; let



sover - eign boun - ty is the spring whence all my bless - ings flow; thy
 God, thy ben - e - fits de - mand more praise than I can give; my
 love de - mands a thank - ful heart, the gift, a - las! how poor, thy
 ev - 'ry word and each de - sire and all my days be thine; let



sover - eign boun - ty is the spring whence all my bless - ings
 God, thy ben - e - fits de - mand more praise than I can
 love de - mands a thank - ful heart, the gift, a - las! how
 ev - 'ry word and each de - sire and all my days be



flow.
 give.
 poor.
 thine.

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): "I am the LORD, and there is no other... To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance."
 Isaiah 45

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper, eating the covenant meal with God's covenant people to be renewed in covenant relationship with him

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.

"To See the King of Heaven Fall"

To see the King of Heaven fall
in anguish to his knees,
the light and hope of all the world
now overwhelmed with grief.
What nameless horrors must he see,
to cry out in the garden:
"Oh, take this cup away from me,
yet not my will but yours,
yet not my will but yours."

To know each friend will fall away
and heaven's voice be still,
for hell to have its vengeful day
Upon Golgotha's hill.
No words describe the Savior's plight,
to be by God forsaken
till wrath and love are satisfied
and every sin is paid,
and every sin is paid.

What took him to this wretched place;
what kept him on this road?
His love for Adam's cursed race,
for every broken soul.
No sin too slight to overlook,
no crime too great to carry,
all mingled in this poisoned cup,
and yet he drank it all.
The Savior drank it all.

In the Lord's Supper the believer is strengthened and fed. In keeping the sacrament as a sign, we gain from it a strengthened faith; as a seal of God's covenant we gain increased assurance of salvation and communion with God.

Westminster Confession of
Faith 2.1-2

The Westminster
Confession of Faith
was written in
England in the
1640s. It is both
disciplined
theologically and
deeply pastoral. As
part of our
doctrinal standards
it expresses what
we believe
Scripture teaches,
framing it for the
needs of the
people of God. We
use these words to
join us with the
church around the
world and through
the ages.

We live in covenant relationship with God as we give our tithes and our offerings to God, proclaiming our Maker and our King

There is only one living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection... God has all life, glory, goodness, and blessedness in and of himself. He alone is all-sufficient, in and to himself, not standing in need of any creatures which he has made, nor deriving any glory from them, but rather manifesting his own glory in, by, to, and on them. He alone is the fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things. He has absolute sovereignty over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatever he pleases. In his sight all things are open and manifest; his knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent of his creatures; so that nothing to him is contingent or uncertain. He is most holy in all his counsels, in all his works, and in all his commands. To him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatever worship, service, or obedience he is pleased to require of them.

We live in covenant relationship with our Creator, coming to him 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 look to the covenant promise: life eternal with our God through Christ

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks"

On Jor - dan's stor - my banks I stand, and
 All o'er those wide ex - ten - ded plains shines
 No chill - ing winds nor pois - onous breath can
 When shall I reach that hap - py place, and

3
 cast a wish - ful eye to
 one e - ter - nal day; there
 reach that health - ful shore;
 be for - ev - er blessed; when

5
 Ca - naan's fair and hap - py land, where
 God the Son for - ev - er reigns, and
 sick - ness, sor - row, pain, and death are
 shall I see my Fa - ther's face, and

7
 my pos - ses - sions lie. I am
 scat - ters night a way.
 felt and feared no more.
 in his bos - om rest.

10
 bound, I am bound, I am bound for the prom - ised Land. I am

14
 bound, I am bound, I am bound for the prom - ised Land.

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."
 Revelation 21

God pronounces his covenant promise over his people

Leader: But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

Isaiah 43

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.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

July–September 2021

God is good! He is caring for his church and making it possible for us to follow his call and love each other and our community. Our bills are paid and we are saving for the large occasional expenses that come our way (annual insurance premiums, etc.).

Your elders are concerned though. This has only happened through God raising up churches and individuals outside of Free Grace to partner with us to see his work go forth in Lewiston/Auburn. As you can see in the graph to the right, giving from Free Grace members is about \$8500 less than our expenses (that's about \$2800/month).

Your elders are praying that God would change that, that he would work so that we cover all our costs and can turn all our partners support to expanding our work making his kingdom visible here in L/A. Would you join us in prayer for this?

INCOME

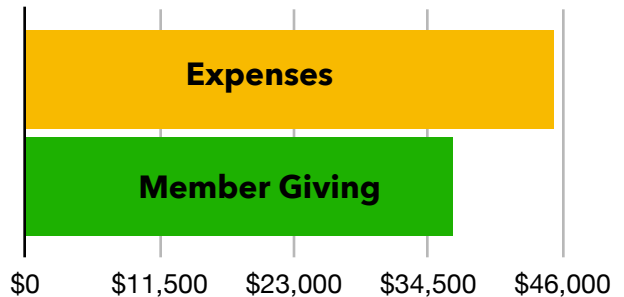
Offerings	\$36,631
Outside Partners	\$12,045
Other Income	\$26
TOTAL INCOME	\$48,703

EXPENSES

Administrative	\$15,491
Ministry	\$5,396
Personnel	\$22,798
Other	\$1,502
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,187

BOTTOM LINE

\$3,516 surplus





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: *The Creation*, Aaron Douglas, gouache on paper, 1927.

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Shannon Van Dyke, *voice*; Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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“May I obey all your commands
with equal pleasure, Sire!”

Robin Hood (Errol Flynn) to King Richard when
commanded to marry Maid Marian. Is this our
response to God when he asks us to live as his
beloved?

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory