



**November 21, 2021**

## Dealing with the Intruder

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The further history of redemption will be an unfolding of the contents of this mother promise. From this point on, all of Old Testament revelation looks forward, points forward, and eagerly awaits the promised redeemer.

Anthony Hoekema  
20<sup>th</sup> century Reformed theologian

Therefore  
the Lord himself  
will give you a sign.  
Behold, the virgin shall  
conceive and bear a son,  
and shall call his name  
Immanuel.  
**Isaiah 7:14**

“When your days are  
fulfilled and you lie down with  
your fathers, I will raise up your  
offspring after you, who shall come from  
your body, and I will establish his  
kingdom. He shall build a house for my  
name, and I will establish the throne of his  
kingdom forever. I will be to him a father,  
and he shall be to me a son... And your  
house and your kingdom shall be made  
sure forever before me. Your throne  
shall be established forever.”  
**2 Samuel 7:12–14, 16**

Oh loving wisdom of our God, when all was sin  
and shame, a second Adam to the fight and to the  
rescue came. Oh wisest love that flesh and blood  
that did in Adam fail, should strive afresh against  
the foe, shouldst strive and shouldst prevail.

John Henry Newman  
19<sup>th</sup> century Anglican priest, poet, and theologian  
who became a Roman Catholic Cardinal

S i n c e  
therefore the children  
share in flesh and blood, he  
himself likewise partook of the  
same things, that through death  
he might destroy the one who has  
the power of death, that is, the  
devil, and deliver all those who  
through fear of death were  
subject to lifelong slavery.  
**Hebrews 2:14–15**

F o r t h e  
wages of sin is  
death, but the free gift  
of God is eternal life in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Romans 6:23**

But 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.  
**Galatians 4:4–5**

All other religions work from earth to  
heaven. They are all attempts at “the  
ascent of man.” In glorious contrast,  
the Christian gospel teaches the  
descent of God with saving grace.  
From heaven to earth! This is the  
simple story of Christmas.

Richard Phillips  
Presbyterian pastor

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

People: **Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.**

Psalms 115

Leader: You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

People: **We will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!**

**We bless the Lord, proclaiming the glory of his love** "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!"

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!  
 2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!  
 5 3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!

5  
 Vast, un - mea - sured, bound - less free;  
 Spread his praise from shore to shore;  
 Love of ev - 'ry love to the best:

9  
 roll - ing as a might - y o - cean  
 how he lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth,  
 'tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing,

13  
 in its full - ness o - ver me.  
 chang - eth nev - er, nev - er - more.  
 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest.

17  
 Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,  
 How he watch - es o'er his loved ones,  
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!

21  
 is the cur - rent of thy love;  
 died to call them all his own;  
 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;

25  
 lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward,  
 how for them he in - ter - ced - eth,  
 and it lifts me up to glo - ry,

29  
 to thy glo - rious rest a - bove.  
 watch - eth o'er them from the throne.  
 for it lifts me up to thee.

The goal of our worship is to glorify God. Worship is not about an experience or a feeling that I receive, but about proclaiming the mystery of the God who loves his people enough to come to them in the person of Jesus Christ.

"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 and re - pent - ance to our hearts,  
 our hearts would wish it long to stay,  
 your grace re - vealed more rich and free,  
 and bring the cor - o - na - tion 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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## God points out our problem

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3

Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...

Romans 5

## We acknowledge that sin is our problem personally and corporately

*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 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. In his resurrection we have the guarantee that we have life in him.

## God declares that he has dealt with our problem

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous... but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord...For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

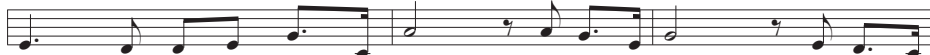
Romans 5 & 6

## We rejoice in the free gift given us by his love

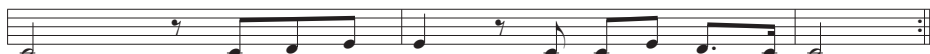
“O Wondrous Love”



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.  
this won - drous love 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.

But God shows his  
love for us in that  
while we were still  
sinners, Christ died  
for us.  
Romans 5

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

Genesis 3:1-24

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,  
but he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

The Christian life is  
full of difficulties,  
full of pitfalls and  
snares. That is why  
we need the  
Scriptures.  
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup>The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.  
<sup>21</sup>And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” <sup>23</sup>therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup>He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Sermon**

Rev. Per Almquist

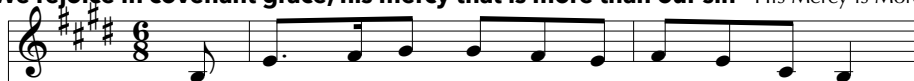
## **Dealing with the Intruder**

The Grand Design

All Christian  
preaching and  
teaching must  
involve not just the  
proclamation of  
Christian doctrine  
but also the telling  
of “how much the  
Lord has done”.  
Robert Stein



**We rejoice in covenant grace, his mercy that is more than our sin** "His Mercy is More"



1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?  
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam?  
3. What rich - es of kind - ness He lav - ished on us.



Om - nis - cient, all - know - ing, He counts not their sum.  
What Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home?  
His blood was the pay - ment, His life was the cost.



Thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore.  
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford.



Our sins, they are man-y—His mer-cy is more. Praise the Lord,



His mer-cy is more. Strong-er than dark - ness,



new eve-ry morn; our sins, they are man - y—His mer-cy is more.



You cannot sin so much as God can forgive. If it comes to a pitched battle between sin and grace, you shall not be so bad as God shall be good. I will prove it to you. You can only sin as a man, but God can forgive as a God. You sin as a finite creature, but the Lord forgives as the infinite Creator.  
Charles Spurgeon

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## GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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### **We celebrate the Lord's Supper to proclaim God's gracious renewing of the covenant by dealing with our sin 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.

"Mary Consoles Eve"

Eve, my sister  
The one who took the fall  
Eve, my sister  
The mother of us all  
Lift up your head  
Don't hide your blushing face  
The promised One  
Is finally on His way

*Almost, not yet, already*  
*Almost, not yet, already*

Eve, it's Mary  
Now I'm a mother too  
The child I carry  
A promise coming true  
This baby comes to save us from our sin  
A servant King, His kingdom without end

*Almost, not yet, already*  
*Almost, not yet, already*

He comes to make his blessings flow  
As far and wide as the curse is found  
He comes to make His blessings flow

*Almost, not yet, already*  
*Almost, not yet, already*

Eve, my sister  
The one who took the fall  
Eve, my sister  
The mother of us all  
The promised One  
Is finally on His way

Jesus' birth that we  
celebrate at  
Christmas was for  
one purpose: to  
redeem people for  
God through his  
death on the cross.  
In the Lord's  
Supper we partake  
of the benefits of  
his death, the great  
redemptive act of  
history. It assures  
the believer that he  
was personally the  
object of that  
incomparable love.

## **We respond to God's gracious covenant in Christ by giving him our lives: our tithes and offerings and our faith**

Leader: Does God leave all mankind to perish in their state of sin and misery?

People: **God does not leave all people to perish in the state of sin and misery into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant, commonly called the covenant of works. Instead, out of his mere love and mercy, he delivers his chosen ones from sin and misery and brings them into a state of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the covenant of grace.**

Leader: How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant?

People: **The grace of God is manifested in the second covenant in that he freely provides and offers to sinners a mediator, and life and salvation by that mediator. Requiring faith as the condition to give them a legal union with him, he promises and gives his Holy Spirit to all his chosen ones to work that faith into them, along with all the other saving graces, and to enable them to all types of holy obedience, as the evidence of the truth of their faith and their thankfulness to God, and as the path that he has appointed to them for salvation.**

Westminster Larger  
Catechism 30 & 32

A catechism is a teaching tool written in question and answer format. The Westminster Larger Catechism was written in the 1640s and provides a well-structured guide to applying the Word of God in the practical context of everyday life.

## **We run to our covenant God to rest in his grace in all of life**

*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 rest in the joy of our covenant mediator and his love that makes it possible for us to have relationship with God**

"Jesus, I am Resting, Resting"



1. Je - sus, I am rest - ing, rest - ing, in the joy of what thou art;  
2. O, how great thy lov - ing kind - ness: vast - er, broad - er than the sea!  
3. Sim - ply trust - ing thee, Lord Je - sus, I be - hold thee as thou art,  
4. Ev - er lift thy face up - on me, as I work and wait for thee;



4 I am find - ing out the great - ness of thy lov - ing heart.  
O, how mar - ve - lous thy good - ness, lav - ished all on me!  
and thy love, so pure, so change - less, sat - is - fies my heart.  
rest - ing 'neath thy smile, Lord Je - sus, earth's dark sha - dows flee.



8 Thou hast bid me gaze up - on thee as thy beau - ty fills my soul,  
Yes, I rest - in thee, be - lov - ed, know what wealth of grace is thine;  
Sat - is - fies - its deep - est long - ings, meets, sup - plies its ev - 'ry need;  
Bright - ness of my Fa - ther's glo - ry, sun - shine of my Fa - ther's face,



12 for by thy trans - form - ing po - wer, thou hast made me whole.  
know thy cer - tain - ty of prom - ise, and have made it mine.  
com - pass - eth me round with bless - ings; thine is love in - deed!  
keep me ev - er trust - ing, rest - ing; fill me with thy grace.



16 Je - sus, I am rest - ing, rest - ing in the joy of what thou art; I am



21 find - ing out the great - ness of thy lov - ing heart.

## God declares his blessing: the reality of the new covenant in Christ

**Leader:** 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... The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**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.

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.

Matthew 11

Romans 15; 16





## 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

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

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“Jesus, I am Resting, Resting” ©1998 NewSpring Music. Words: Jean S. Pigott, 1876. Music: David Hampton, 1998.

Jonah wasn't swallowed by a fish or whale.  
He was swallowed by grace as God  
provided the way back to him.

This is life in the new covenant. We fight  
and fuss and follow our own way and God  
swallows us in his grace, providing all we  
need to have relationship with him.

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory

