



December 5, 2021

A Child of Misfits

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Everyone was looking for the king
in all his glory and they missed the
king in all his lowliness.

Brad Mills
Presbyterian pastor

Have this mind
among yourselves, which
is yours in Christ Jesus, who,
though he was in the form of
God, did not count equality with
God a thing to be grasped, but
emptied himself, by taking the
form of a servant, being born
in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5–7

But we see him who for a little
while was made lower than the
angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory
and honor because of the suffering of death,
so that by the grace of God he might taste death
for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom
and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons
to glory, should make the founder of their salvation
perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and
those who are sanctified all have one source. That is
why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying,
"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst
of the congregation I will sing your praise." And
again, "I will put my trust in him." And again,
"Behold, I and the children God has
given me."

Hebrews 2:9–13

One of these things is not like the others,
One of these things just doesn't belong,
Can you tell which thing is not like the others
By the time I finish my song?
Did you guess which thing was not like the others?
Did you guess which thing just doesn't belong?

"One of These Things Is Not Like the Others"
Sesame Street

Since then we have
a great high priest who has
passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold
fast our confession. For we do not have
a high priest who is unable to sympathize
with our weaknesses, but one who in
every respect has been tempted as we
are, yet without sin. Let us then with
confidence draw near to the throne of
grace, that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time
of need.

Hebrews 4:14–16

The sovereign plan and purpose of God
are often worked out in and through the
most unlikely turn of events... God often
works in the most unusual ways and that
to be open to his sovereign activity is to be
prepared for the surprising.

Donald Hagner
NT scholar

We find our belonging in Jesus, knowing we are
part of His family. With this knowledge, I pray
we follow Jesus' lead to pursue, invite, and love
others who may be feeling like misfits too.

Rachael Adams
writer and speaker

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

Hebrews 1

People: **whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.**

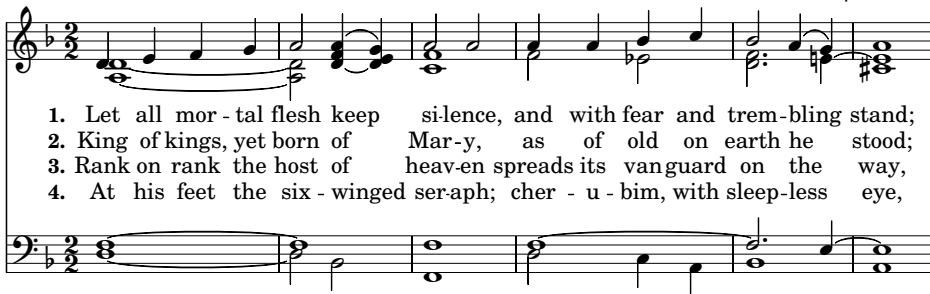
Leader: He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

People: **My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.**

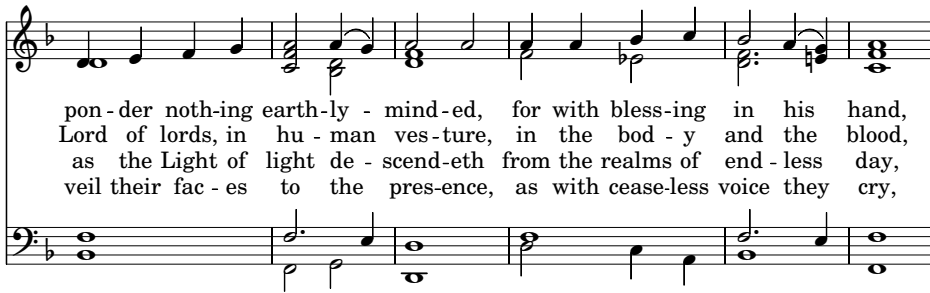
Luke 2

Called to worship by the glory of Jesus Christ, we stand before him and worship

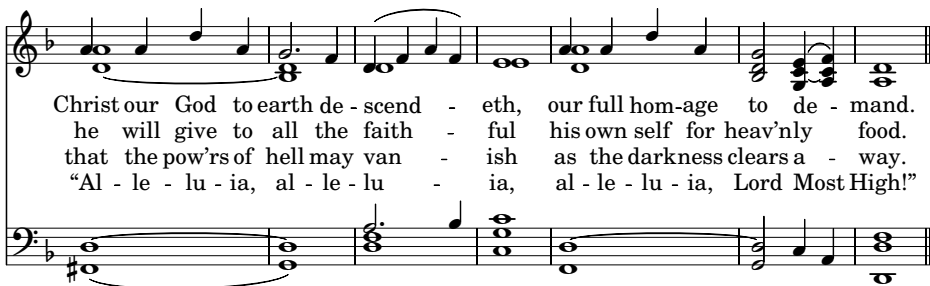
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood;
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its vanguard on the way,
4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand,
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

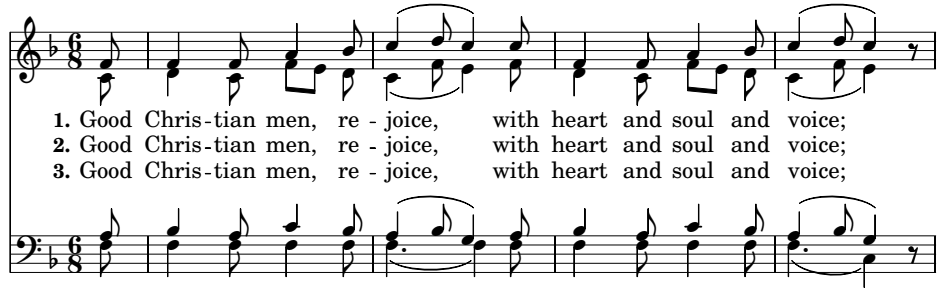


Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'nly food.
that the pow'rs of hell may van - ish as the darkness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Christmas is the celebration of God's glory dwelling among us in the person of Jesus Christ. The grace and truth of God revealed in Jesus' birth calls us to come like the shepherds and the wise men to bring our gifts and worship.

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

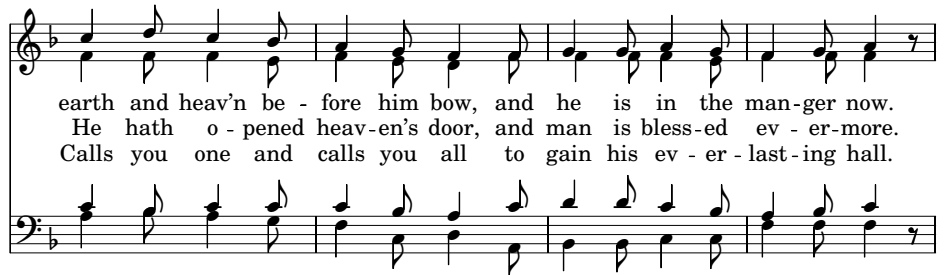
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."
John 3



1. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
2. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
3. Good Chris-tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He hath o - pened heav-en's door, and man is bless-ed ev - er-more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God confronts us with the terrible reality of our sin

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 and come to God's answer for it: Jesus Christ

Almighty Father,
We confess that we have sinned in word, and deed, and thought,
through ignorance, weakness, and deliberate fault.
We confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.

Lord Christ,
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as you have loved us.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

A full prayer of confession acknowledges that our sin is more than an isolated example of bad judgment; it is a way of life. Sin is our response to God—fleeing from him and running to other things. We confess that we are sinful people, and we live in need of a Savior.

God declares our salvation by his grace in Jesus Christ

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2

We rest in the glorious love of God in Christ Jesus

"Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"

1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
 2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
 3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,

all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
 all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
 Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

thrones for a man - ger did sur - ren - der,
 stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
 E - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,

sap - phire - paved courts for e - sta - ble floor.
 heav'n - ward by thine would ter - nal plan.
 make us what thou would have us be.

Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
 Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
 Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,

all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
 all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
 Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

In this is love, not
 that we have loved
 God but that he
 loved us and sent
 his Son to be the
 propitiation for our
 sins.
 1 John 4

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1–7a

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam...

Sermon

Mr. Adam Lee

A Child of Misfits

What Child Is This?

In Matthew 4 Jesus quotes Scripture saying, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." So we come to the word of God each week, finding in it the nourishment that feeds our souls.

We admit that we are misfits for whom Jesus came

"Jesus, I Come"



1.Out of my bon - dage, sor - row, and night, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.
 2.Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.
 3.Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.
 4.Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je - sus, I come; Je - sus, I come.



In - to thy free - dom, glad - ness, and light, Je - sus, I come to thee.
 In - to the glo - rious gain of thy cross, Je - sus, I come to thee.
 In - to thy bless - ed will to a - bide, Je - sus, I come to thee.
 In - to the joy and light of thy home, Je - sus, I come to thee.



Out of my sick - ness in - to thy health, out of my want - ing and in - to thy wealth,
 Out of earth's sor - rows in - to thy balm, out of life's storms and in - to thy calm,
 Out of my - self to dwell in thy love, out of de - spair, in - to rap - tures a - bove,
 Out of the depths of ru - in un - told, in - to the peace of thy shel - ter - ing fold,



out of my sin and in - to thy - self, Je - sus, I come to thee.
 out of dis - tress in - to jub - i - lant psalm, Je - sus, I come to thee.
 up - ward for - ev - er on wings like a dove, Je - sus, I come to thee.
 ev - er thy glo - rious face to be - hold, Je - sus, I come to thee.

"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

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We proclaim the Child of Christmas, God humbling himself to be born a child of misfits for misfits like us

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
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

We come to Jesus rejoicing that he came for misfits like us as we give our tithes and offerings to him

*We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith,
putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim,
that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.*

The offering is not a duty; it is the response of gratitude to the grace that has been given, the joyful reaction of a person to their lover who pursues them passionately.

We run to the Child of Christmas that we would live in him all the days of our lives

*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 sing out, telling of the Child of Christmas to everyone

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Unison

(Ref.) Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

F Dm F/C C⁷ F Fine

go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.

F C F C⁷ Dm C F

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night, be-
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a-bove the earth rang
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger our hum-ble Christ was born, and

C F Gm G⁷ C⁷ D.C.

hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

And when they saw
it, they made
known the saying
that had been told
them concerning
this child. And all
who heard it
wondered at what
the shepherds told
them.
Luke 2

God declares his blessing given in the Child of Christmas

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13

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

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Dan Crawford, *voice*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Pubic Domain. Words and Music: Traditional spiritual.

Christmas is not the celebration of
my glory that caused Jesus' birth,
but God's grace to me in my failure.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory