



January 23, 2022

Over and Over and Over Again

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Well she got her daddy's car
And she cruised through the hamburger stand now.
Seems she forgot all about the library
Like she told her old man now.
And with the radio blasting
Goes cruising just as fast as she can now.

"Fun, Fun, Fun"
The Beach Boys

Forgiveness means bearing the cost instead of making the wrongdoer do it, so you can reach out in love to seek your enemy's renewal and change. Forgiveness means absorbing the debt of sin yourself.

Tim Keller
Presbyterian pastor

Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

Psalm 107:43

Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!...Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness... Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress, when he heard their cry. For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Psalm 106:1, 6, 44-45

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Lamentations 3:22-24

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:6-7

God's grace cannot be overemphasized—the problem is that our idea of grace is a "that's okay" message rather than God's idea of grace—consistent, ever-faithful, relentless, constantly pursuing, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained, and furious love that loves me the way I am but loves me too much to let me stay that way.

Frank Johnson
Assemblies of God minister

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
19th century English Baptist pastor
known as the Prince of Preachers

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: What is man's primary purpose?

People: To glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Leader: So make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God!

People: It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Westminster Shorter
Catechism #1

Psalm 100

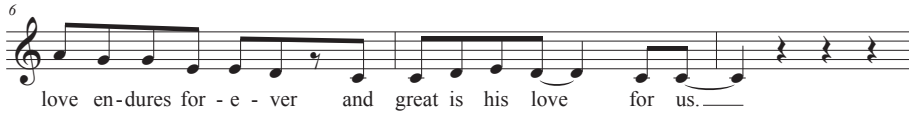
We respond to his call and enter his courts with praise "Praise the Lord (Psalm 117)"



Chorus: Praise the Lord all you na - tions ex - tol him all you peo - ples, for



great is his love for us — Praise the Lord he is faith - ful His



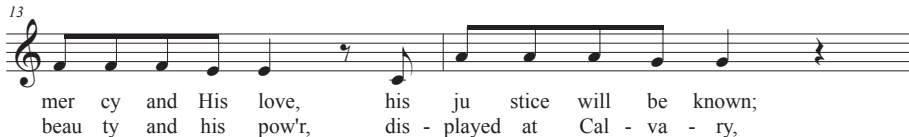
love en - dures for - e - ver and great is his love for us. —



1. Sing a song of praise to God en - throned on high;
2. Bold-ly shout his praise for he has res - cued us;



bow be - fore the King of the an - gels. His
sin and death no more can en - slave us. His



mer cy and His love, his ju stice will be known;
beau ty and his pow'r, dis - played at Cal - va - ry,



lift a song of praise to the Lord!
lift a song of praise to the Lord!

It is the joy of God's people to sing praises to him. There is none like him and one day his glory will be clearly seen and all people will come and worship him, acknowledging that he alone is God. Our worship is a taste of that day.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God confronts us with our repeated sin

Isaiah 43

"You did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices... You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities."

Joel 2

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

So often Christians act as if they no longer sin. The reality Scripture teaches is that those in Christ are free from slavery to sin. We no longer face death as the price of our sin because Jesus Christ took our sin on himself.

And yet we continue to sin. So we cry out to God through Jesus Christ to be at work in us. We confess our failings and ask that we would live in the strength of Christ's death and resurrection.

We return to God, confessing our sin and looking to his steadfast love

Heavenly Father, gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name
and what our hearts can no longer bear.

Trouble us with the greatness of your call
And with our slowness to obey.

Trouble us with the greatness of your steadfast love, O God;
And with the loss of our first love, our fervent love for you.

Trouble us with the struggles of your church;
and grant us faith in the midst of our struggles.

In your steadfast love, you have not left us,
though we have often left you.

In your grace, you have set us free from a past that we can not change;
and given us a future in which we are changed,
transformed by your Holy Spirit.

In your mercy, you have reconciled us to yourself,
placing our sin upon your Son, Jesus Christ,
that in his death we might have peace.

Grant us rest in the promise that we are yours in Christ,
bought with his blood,
and you will hold us fast.

Amen

God proclaims his mercy, his steadfast love in the face of our sin

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Romans 5
Colossians 1

We rest in the sweet and permanent peace of Jesus Christ

"Poor Sinner, Dejected with Fear"



1. Poor sin - ner de - ject - ed with fear, un - bos - om thy mind to the
 2. Come just as you are with thy woe; fall down at the feet of the
 3. The soul that on Je - sus re - lies, he'll nev - er, no nev - er de -



Lamb; no wrath on his brow he does wear, nor
 Lamb; he will not, he can - not say, "Go," but
 ceive; he free - ly and faith - ful - ly gives more



will he poor mourn - ers con - demn. His arm of om - ni - po - tent grace is
 sure - ly will take out thy stain. A foun - tain is o - pened for sin, and
 bless - ings than we can con - ceive. Yea, down to old age he will keep, nor



a - ble and will - ing to save; a sweet and a per - ma - nent peace he'll
 thou - sands its vir - tues have proved; he'll take thee and plunge thee there - in, and
 will he for - sake us at last; he knows and is known by his sheep; they're



free - ly and faith - ful - ly give.
 wash thee from filth in his blood.
 his and he will hold them fast.

Peace I leave with
 you; my peace I
 give to you. Not as
 the world gives do
 I give to you. Let
 not your hearts be
 troubled, neither
 let them be afraid.

John 14

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

John 6

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

A A/C# D D E A A

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the
 2. Those he saves are his de-light, Christ will hold me fast; pre-cious
 3. For my life he bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; jus-tice

A/C# D D E A F#m E/G# E

tempt-er would pre-vail, He will hold me fast. I could nev-er
 in his ho-ly sight, he will hold me fast. He'll not let my
 has been sat-is-fied; he will hold me fast. Raised with him to

A D D C# F#m F#m E/G# E A

keep my hold through life's fear-ful path; for my love is of-ten
 soul be lost; his Prom-is-es shall last; bought by him at such a
 end-less life, he will hold me fast 'til our faith is turned to

D D E A D E F#m F#m E/G#

cold; he must hold me fast.
 cost, he will hold me fast. He will hold me fast, he will hold me
 sight, when he comes at last!

A A Bm7 A/C# D D E A

fast; for my Sav-ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

Genesis 15

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷And he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

In the Scriptures...God daily comes to his people, not from afar but nearby. In it he reveals himself, from day to day, to believers in the fullness of his truth and grace. Through it he works his miracles of compassion and faithfulness.
Herman Bavinck

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

Over and Over and Over Again

The Grand Design

The first step in
Christian
preaching is to tell
men and women
that they and all
their problems
must always be
considered in
connection with
God. That is the
whole message of
the Bible.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

We rest, not in our faithfulness, but in God's wondrous love that will never let us go "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.
 I, 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

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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 celebrate the Lord's Supper, strengthened by his covenant faithfulness guaranteed by 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.

We respond to his faithfulness by giving our tithes, our offerings, and our lives to him

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world, we declare:

Our world, fallen into sin,
has lost its first goodness,
but God has not abandoned the work of his hands:
our Maker preserves this world,
sending seasons, sun, and rain,
upholding all creatures,
renewing the earth,
promising a Savior,
guiding all things to their purpose.

Remembering the promise
to reconcile the world to himself,
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—
the eternal Word made flesh.
He is the long-awaited Messiah,
one with us
and one with God,
fully human and fully divine,
conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

Being both divine and human,
Jesus is the only mediator.
He alone paid the debt of our sin;
there is no other Savior.
We are chosen in Christ
to become like him in every way.
God's electing love sustains our hope:
God's grace is free
to save sinners who offer nothing
but their need for mercy.

Our World Belongs to God
4, 23, 26

We cry out, praying for God to abide with us by his grace

“Abide with Me”



1. A - bid with me: fast falls the e - ven -
 2. Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst
 3. I need thy pres - ence, ev - 'ry pass - ing
 4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing



3
 tide; the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
 smile, and, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean -
 hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's
 bless: ills have no weight, tears lose their bit - ter -
 eyes; shine through the gloom, and point me to the



6
 bid. When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts
 while, thou hast not left me, though I've oft left
 pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can
 ness. Where is thy sting, death? Where, grave, thy vic - to -
 skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows



9
 flee, help of the help - less, a - bid with me.
 thee; on to the close, Lord, a - bid with me.
 be? Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bid with me.
 ry? I tri - umph still; a - bid with me.
 flee: in life, in death, Lord, a - bid with



12
 me; in life, in death, Lord, a - bid with me.

We pray because we are children, weak enough to need God's help, and also believers, wise and confident enough to ask God, our Father to help us.

GOD SENDS US WITH HIS GRACE

We rejoice in Christ, who redeemed us, bought us back from our unfaithfulness

"I Will Glory in My Redeemer"



I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, whose price - less blood has ran - somed
 I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er; my life he bought, my love he
 I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who car - ries me on ea - gle's



5 me. Mine was the sin that drove the bit - ter nails and hung him on that judge - ment
 owns. I have no long - ings for a - no - ther; I'm sat - is - fied in him a -
 wings. He crowns my life with lov - ing - kind - ness; his tri - umph song I'll ev - er



9 tree. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who crushed the pow'r of sin and
 lone. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, his faith - ful - ness my stand - ing
 sing. I will glo - ry in my Re - deem - er, who waits for me at gates of



13 death. My on - ly Sav - ior be - fore the ho - ly Judge: the Lamb who is my right - eous -
 place. Though foes are might - y and rush up - on me, my feet are firm, held by his
 gold. And when he calls me, it will be par - a - dise: his face for - ev - er to be -



17 ness, the Lamb who is my right - eous - ness.
 grace, my feet are firm, held by his grace.
 hold, his face for - ev - er to be - hold. last time, repeat from *

For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.
 Isaiah 54

We receive the promise of his covenant faithfulness

Jude 24-25

Leader: He will keep you from stumbling and present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, now to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

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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Sarah Clarke, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *djembe*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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I fought his grace,
and his grace won.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory