



March 26, 2023

The Lord Roars: The Pattern of Grace
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The Lord does not look on people in the light of their historical past but in the light of their moral present.

J. Alec Motyer
British OT scholar

After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written..."

Acts 15:13-15

It makes many people queasy nowadays to talk about the wrath of God, but there can be no turning away from this prominent biblical theme. Oppressed peoples from around the world have been empowered by the scriptural picture of a God who is angered by injustice and unrighteousness. If we are resistant to the idea of the wrath of God, we might pause to reflect the next time we are outraged about something—about our property values being threatened, or our children's educational opportunities being limited, or our tax breaks being eliminated. All of us are capable of anger about something. God's anger, however, is pure. It does not have the maintenance of privilege as its object but goes out on behalf of those who have no privileges. The wrath of God is not an emotion that flares up from time to time, as though God has temper tantrums. It is a way of describing his absolute enmity against all wrong and his coming to set matters right.

Fleming Rutledge
Episcopal priest

But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice. For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

Deuteronomy 4:29-31

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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 21:2-4

The people of God are ever distinct in their privileges but are intent to make those privileges the common, equal experience of all who will obey the gospel.

J. Alec Motyer
British OT scholar

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Isaiah 25:6-9

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Psalms 92

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night...

People: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; the works of your hands I sing for joy. How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

Leader: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,

People: to declare that the LORD is upright; is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

We give thanks to the Lord and sing praises to his name

"Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord"



1. Come, let us sing un - to the Lord
 2. The great sal - va - tion of our God
 3. He called to mind his truth and grace
 4. All lands to God lift up your voice;



new songs of praise with sweet ac - cord;
 is seen through all the earth a - broad;
 in prom - ise made to Is - rael's race;
 sing praise to him, with shouts re - joice;



for won - ders great by him - are done,
 be - fore the hea - then's won - d'ring sight
 and un - to earth's re - test bound
 with voice of joy and loud ac - claim



his hand and arm have vic - t'ry won.
 he has re - vealed his truth and right.
 glad tid - ings of sal - va - tion sound.
 let all u - nite and praise his name!

When the church gathers for corporate worship, we do not call God to come to be with us. Rather, we gather because God summons us to come to him so that he can remind us of his greatness and his steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ.

"Glorious and Mighty"

1. Maj-es-ty, your glo - ry is shin - ing bright - er than the
 2. Maj-es-ty, you fash - ioned the heav - ens, your de - crees can
 3. Maj-es-ty, we'll sing with cre - a - tion when you come a -

4 moon and the stars. Mar-vel - ling, we ho - nor and fear you a -
 nev - er be changed. O - ver all the plans of the na - tions your
 gain in the clouds. Ev - 'ry knee will bow down and wor - ship the

7 bove all gods. Glo - ri-ous and might - y, you're awe - some in beau - ty;
 judg - ments reign.
 one true God.

13 joy - ful songs we raise. Glo - ri-ous and might - y, you're awe - some in

19 beau - ty, great - ly to be praised!

Sing to the LORD,
 bless his name;
 tell of his salvation
 from day to day.
 Declare his glory
 among the
 nations, his
 marvelous works
 among all the
 peoples!...
 Splendor and
 majesty are before
 him; strength and
 beauty are in his
 sanctuary.

Psalms 96

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls us to draw near to him by acknowledging our sin and submitting to him

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

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.

James 4

We humble ourselves, drawing near to God through his grace

O perfect and holy God,
By the power of your Spirit I learn that
The more I do, the worse I am,
The more I think I know, the less I know,
The more holiness I believe I have, the more sinful I am.

O Lord,
I have a wild heart and cannot stand before you.
How little I love your truth and ways!
I neglect you by thinking I have done enough.
I hide from you behind things of this world
Even behind religion and doing what you command.
My doubts, struggles, and sins make me afraid to come to you.
I have run from you, and, despite your calling me, I fail to return to you,
Frequently do not rest in you, and consistently do not trust you.

But you are my gracious God.
Your ear of sovereign grace will not fail to hear my cries.
For you bought me from my sin,
Redeeming me with the blood of Jesus.

So even as I forget so easily the grace you have given
And your truths seep away,
Give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.
Amen.

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 confess our
failings and ask
that we would live
in the strength

God declares his grace, his steadfast love that deals with our sin

Psalm 103

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5

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

We rejoice in God's love: Christ's death for us

"And Can It Be"



1. And can it be that I should gain an in-trest in the Sav-ior's blood? Died
 2. He left his Fa-ther's throne a-bove, so free, so in-fin-ite his grace! Hum-
 3. Long my im-pris-oned spi-rit lay, fast bound in sin and na-ture's night; thine
 4. No con-dem-na-tion now I dread; Je-sus, and all in him, is mine! A-



he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pur-sued?
 bled him-self, so great his love, and bled for A-dam's help-less race.
 eye dif-fused a quick-'ning ray; I woke, the dun-geon flamed with light.
 live in him, my liv-ing Head, and clothed in right-eous-ness di-vine.



A-ma-zing love! How can it be that thou, my God, should die
 'Tis mer-cy all, im-mense and free, for, O my God, it found
 My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and fol-
 Bold I ap-proach the e-ter-nal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ,



for me? A-ma-zing love! How can it be, that thou, my God, should die for me? A-
 out me.
 - loved thee.
 my own.



ma-zing love! How can it be, that thou, my God should die for me?

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

⁵The Lord GOD of hosts,
he who touches the earth and it melts,
and all who dwell in it mourn,
and all of it rises like the Nile,
and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;
⁶who builds his upper chambers in the heavens
and founds his vault upon the earth;
who calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—
the LORD is his name.

Amos 9:5-15

⁷“Are you not like the Cushites to me,
O people of Israel?” declares the LORD.
“Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,
and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?
⁸Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground,
except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,”
declares the LORD.

⁹“For behold, I will command,
and shake the house of Israel among all the nations
as one shakes with a sieve,
but no pebble shall fall to the earth.
¹⁰All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword,
who say, ‘Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.’

¹¹“In that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins
and rebuild it as in the days of old,
¹²that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by my name,”
declares the LORD who does this.

¹³“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when the plowman shall overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.
¹⁴I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;

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

they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
¹⁵I will plant them on their land,
and they shall never again be uprooted
out of the land that I have given them,"
says the LORD your God.

Sermon

Rev. Per Almquist

The Lord Roars: The Pattern of Grace

Mine! Living Like You Belong to Jesus

The main purpose
of a sermon is to
bring men nearer
to God and to
each other—is to
influence
character and
conduct so as to
bring them more
and more to
conform to the
character and life
of Jesus Christ as
set forth in the
Scriptures.
Francis Grimké

We rejoice in the pattern of grace that always ends at the throne of Christ

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

1. Al-le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, his the throne. Al-le -
2. Al-le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the Lord of lords we own; Al-le -

5
lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone. Hark! The
lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heav'n thy throne. Al - le -

9
songs of peace-ful Zi - on thun-der like a might - y flood; Je - sus
lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our food and stay! Al - le -

13
out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood. Al - le -
lu - ia! Here the sin - ful flee to thee from day to day. Al - le -

17
lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor-row now. Al - le -
lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scept - er, his the throne. Al - le -

21
lu - ia! He is near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques-tions how.
lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone.

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the pattern of grace, proclaiming Christ's death for our sin as we celebrate the Lord's Supper

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. 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 with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to our church that you are in covenant with God. You also acknowledge 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.

The sacraments... are signs given the force of God's own promise, so that our participation in them is not an exercise in fantasy nor in transformation of consciousness. The sacraments certify reality for us, by the assurance of God's own Word.
Edmund Clowney

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1. Come thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king;

From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in thee
 Come, thou prom - ised he brings of Jes - se, thy birth we long to hear.
 Born his life he in us glad - ness, Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, friend,
 By to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad ti - dings of a birth;
 Leav - ing rich - ees with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

13 Dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart,
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing, Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 This the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 By thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glor - ious throne.

We rest in the pattern of God's grace, giving our lives to him as we give our tithes and offerings and profess our faith in his steadfast love

As followers of Jesus Christ,
living in this world—
which some seek to control,
and others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust:
Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning,
through all the crises of our times,
until the kingdom fully comes,
God keeps covenant forever:
Our world belongs to God!
God is King: Let the earth be glad!
Christ is victor: his rule has begun!
The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Our hope for a new creation is not tied
to what humans can do,
for we believe that one day
every challenge to God's rule
will be crushed.
His kingdom will fully come,
and the Lord will rule.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Our World Belongs to God
articles 1-2, 55

This testimony was written to state what the church finds essential to be confessed at this time. It was written with the prayer that it may help the church to live by faith in God's world, and that some of these words may assist in giving reason for the hope that we have through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray to recognize and rest in the pattern of God's grace at work in our lives, our community, and our world

*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 live in the glorious pattern of his grace, looking to the ultimate restoration and life eternal in the city he establishes “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Zion

Hebrew: “Fortress”

Used in the Old Testament for Jerusalem. In both Old and New Testaments it is used to refer to God’s heavenly city, where we enjoy the full promise of the covenant: God dwelling with us.



1. Glor - ious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on ci - ty of our God;
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,
 3. Blest in - hab - i - tants of Zi - on, washed in the Re - deem - er's blood,
 4. Sa - vior, if of Zi - on's ci - ty, I, through grace, a mem - ber am,



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode.
 well sup - plies thy sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
 Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly on makes them kings and priests to God.
 let the world de - ride or pi - ty, I will glor - y in thy name.



On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, while such a ri - ver ev - er flows their
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to
 Fad - ing is the world - ling's plea - sure, all his boast - ed



sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed,
 thirst to quench? Grace which, like the Lord, the gi - ver,
 reign as kings, and as priests, his sol - emn prais - es,
 pomp and show; sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sure



thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 ne - ver fails from age to age.
 each for a thank off - 'ring brings.
 none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

God proclaims the promise of his grace

Leader: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people from this time forth and forevermore... He hems you in, behind and before, and lays his hand upon you... May the Lord bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!

People: Amen

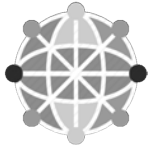
*Please stay and join us for a time of enjoying each other's company.
 This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
 as we reconnect with those we know and as we meet someone new.*



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
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke



Credits

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Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Shane Stevens, *percussion*; Jacob Paris, *guitar*

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'Cause my brokenness brought me to You
And these wounds are a story You'll use
So I'm thankful for the scars
'Cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart
And I know they'll always tell of who You are
So forever I am thankful for the scars

"Scars"

I Am They
band

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory

