



November 3, 2024

How Do I Love Thee?

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

I must listen to the gospel, it tells me not what I must do, but what Jesus Christ, the Son of God has done for me.

Martin Luther

16th-century German reformer

" Y o u
are of your father the
devil, and your will is to do
your father's desires. He was a
murderer from the beginning, and
does not stand in the truth, because
there is no truth in him. When he lies,
he speaks out of his own character,
for he is a liar and the father of
lies. But because I tell the truth,
you do not believe me."

John 8:44-45

If we are
faithless, he
remains faithful—for
he cannot deny
himself.

2 Timothy 2:13

Faithless is he that says farewell
when the road darkens.

J. R. R. Tolkien

20th-century British professor of philology
and author of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*

Once you choose Christ, you must choose
his people too, it's a package deal.

Jonathan Leeman

Baptist elder, author, and journalist

I will heal
their apostasy; I
will love them freely,
for my anger has
turned from them.

Hosea 14:4

See what kind of love the
Father has given to us, that we
should be called children of God;
and so we are. The reason why the
world does not know us is that it did not
know him. Beloved, we are God's children
now, and what we will be has not yet
appeared; but we know that when he
appears we shall be like him, because
we shall see him as he is. And
everyone who thus hopes in him
purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

Covenant community is like air.
We don't miss it until we need it.

Tim Keller

Presbyterian pastor

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalm 90

People: **You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

Leader: Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom...Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

People: **Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!**

We rejoice in our God

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1. Our God, our help in ages past, our
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne, your
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are
 5. Our God, our help in ages past, our

4. hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 5. saints have dwelt se - cure; our suf - fi - cient is your
 6. earth re - ceived her frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 7. like an eve - ning gone; short as the watch that
 8. hope for years to come: O be our guard while

9. storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 10. arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 11. you are God, to end - less years the same.
 12. ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 13. trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

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.


"Praise the Lord (Psalm 117)"



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



3
great is his love for us. — Praise the Lord- he is faith - ful; His




6
love en-dures for - e - ver, and great is his love for us. — *



9
1. Sing a song of praise to God en - throned on high;
2. Bold-ly shout his praise for he has res - cued us;



11
bow be - fore the King of the an - gels. His
sin and death no more can en - slave us. His



13
mer cy and His love, his ju stice will be known;
beau ty and his pow'r, dis - played at Cal - va - ry,



15
lift a song of praise to the Lord!
lift a song of praise to the Lord!

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls sinners to come to him

God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

Psalms 53

"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.

Joel 2

We hear his call and come to him, confessing our sin

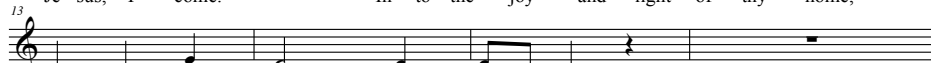
"Jesus, I Come"



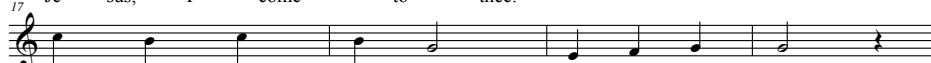
1. Out of my bon - dage, sor - row, and night, Je - sus, I come;
2. Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je - sus, I come;
3. Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je - sus, I come;
4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je - sus, I come;



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



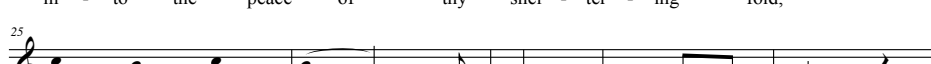
Je - sus, I come to thee.
Je - sus, I come to thee.
Je - sus, I come to thee.
Je - sus, I come to thee.



Out of my sick - ness in - to thy health,
Out of earth's sor - rows in - to thy balm,
Out of my self - to dwell in thy love,
Out of the depths of ru - in un - told,



out of my want - ing and in - to thy wealth,
out of life's storms and in - to thy calm,
out of de - spair, in - to rap - tures a - bove,
in - to the peace of thy shel - ter - ing fold,



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



Je - sus, I come to thee.
Je - sus, I come to thee.
Je - sus, I come to thee.
Je - sus, I come to thee.

The only way we can come before God is through Jesus Christ. The amazing love of Christ's death on the cross was the perfect sacrifice that satisfied the Father's justice. He gives us this by his free grace, completely unearned and undeserved.

God declares his grace: his buying back of sinners from their sin through the death of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1

Galatians 3

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot... Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

redeem

[ri'dēm]

gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment; buy back

God is our redeemer, the one who bought us back from the wages of our sin (death) by paying those wages in the death of Christ.

We rejoice and sing the praises of our Redeemer

“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 *

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹⁰ Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹ Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹² May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

Malachi 2:10-16

¹³ And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴ But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

Sermon

Rev. Adam Lee

How Do I Love Thee?

1. The truth
2. The whole truth
3. So... help me, God!

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 and rest in his faithfulness that we may live faithfully

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"



1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with all
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide, strength for to -



not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou for -
 na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness,
 day and bright hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten



ev - er wilt be.
 mer - cy, and love. Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 thou - sand be - side!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see: all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed — Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

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

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper to rest in his faithfulness to us guaranteed by the death of Jesus Christ for our sin

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, you are acknowledging 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.

A sacrament is a sign of participation in saving grace. It marks God's presence and work in those who seek him through Jesus Christ, enabling them to live boldly and faithfully for him.

"We Will Feast in the House of Zion"

We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our

hearts re - stored. He has done great things. we will say to - ge - ther

We will feast and weep no more.

1. We will not be
2. In the dark of
3. Ev - ery vow we've

burned by the fire, He is the Lord our God we are not con -
 night be - fore the dawn my soul be not a - fraid for the pro - mised
 bro - ken and be - trayed You are the faith - ful one and from the

sumed by the flood Up - held, pro - tect - ed, ga - thered up
 mor - ning o how long O God of Ja - cob be - my strength.
 gar - den to the grave Bind us to - ge - ther bring - sha - lom

We declare our desire to live faithfully in response to his faithfulness as we give our tithes, offerings, and lives

Elder: Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

People: The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.

Elder: What is the sum of the ten commandments?

People: The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Elder: Which is the seventh commandment?

People: The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Elder: What are the duties required in the seventh commandment?

People: The duties required in the seventh commandment are, chastity in body, mind, affections, words, and behavior; and the preservation of it in ourselves and others; watchfulness over the eyes and all the senses; temperance, keeping of chaste company, modesty in apparel; marriage by those that have not the gift of continency, conjugal love, and cohabitation; diligent labor in our callings; shunning all occasions of uncleanness, and resisting temptations thereunto.

Elder: What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment?

People: The sins forbidden in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts; all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections; all corrupt or filthy communications, or listening thereunto; wanton looks, impudent or light behavior, immodest apparel; prohibiting of lawful, and dispensing with unlawful marriages; allowing, tolerating, keeping of stews, and resorting to them; entangling vows of single life, undue delay of marriage; having more wives or husbands than one at the same time; unjust divorce, or desertion; idleness, gluttony, drunkenness, unchaste company; lascivious songs, books, pictures, dancings, stage plays; and all other provocations to, or acts of uncleanness, either in ourselves or others.

Westminster Shorter
Catechism 41-42

Westminster Larger
Catechism 137-139

Prayer involves struggle, but the struggle is not that of persuading our God. Rather, it is the struggle involved in being subdued by God, coming out of the dark and secret places in which we have been hiding the truth about ourselves, and laying the whole of our lives before him.

Sinclair Ferguson

We come to God in prayer, giving thanks for his faithfulness to us and asking him to work in us that we might live faithfully to each other in response

*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace,
placing our lives and our church in his hands.*

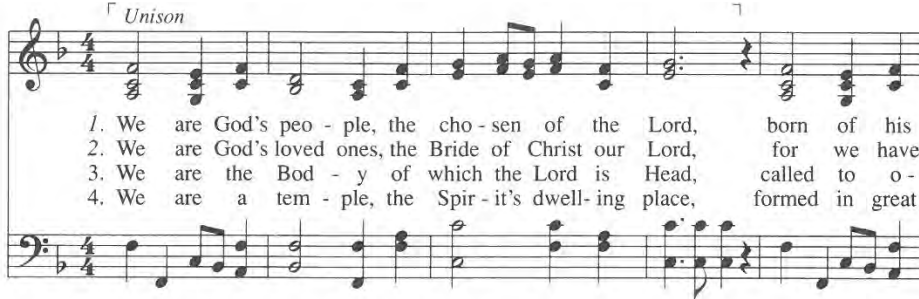
We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory.

GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

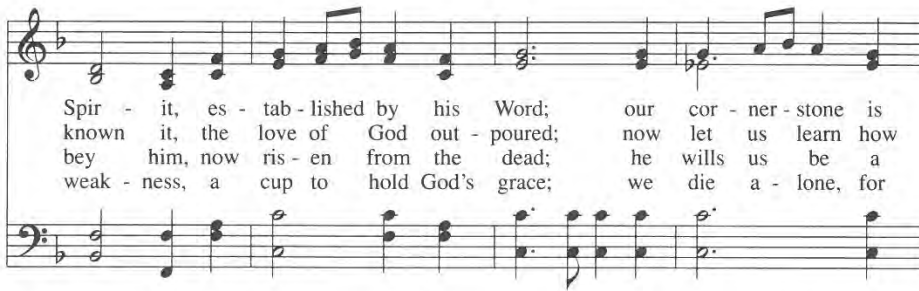
We sing out to live his faithfulness to all

“We are God’s People”

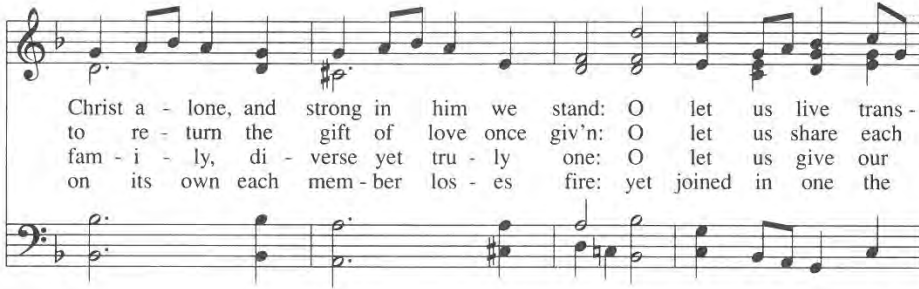
Unison



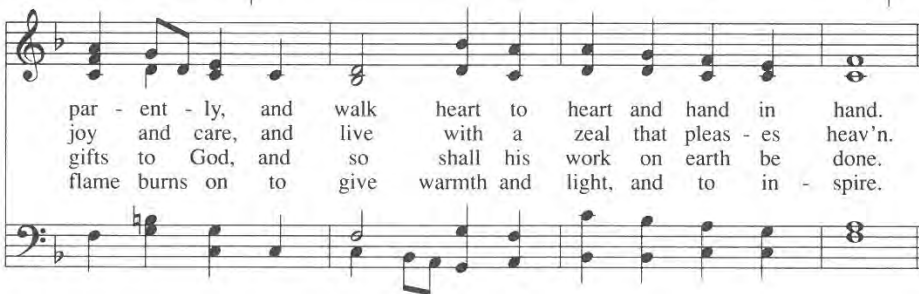
1. We are God’s peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
2. We are God’s loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it’s dwell - ing place, formed in great



Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
weak - ness, a cup to hold God’s grace; we die a - lone, for



Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
to re - turn the gift of love once giv’n: O let us share each
fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the



par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav’n.
gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

Know that the
LORD, he is God!
It is he who made
us, and we are his;
we are his people,
and the sheep of
his pasture.

Psalm 100

Jeremiah 31

2 Thessalonians 3

God declares the promise of his faithfulness to his people

Leader: He has loved you with an everlasting love; therefore he will continue his faithfulness to you...The Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one...Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

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.*

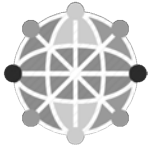
A benediction is a pronouncement of God's blessing; hence, the minister stands with hands outstretched, and an appropriate posture is for the worshipper to stand with their hands open, palms upward, to receive God's blessing as he promises.



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. Dr. Per Almquist
Brian Cosgrove
Rev. Adam Lee
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke



Credits

Cover artwork: *His Faithfulness Is a Shield, Psalm 91:4*, Linda James, pastel.

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

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" Public Domains. Words: Isaac Watts from Psalm 90. Music: Attributed to William Croft, 1708.

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"Great is Thy Faithfulness" ©1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co. Words: Thomas Chisholm, 1923. Music: William Runyan, 1923.

"We Will Feast in the House of Zion" ©2015 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP) / Joshmooreownsthis Music (ASCAP). Words: based on Psalm 126, Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore, 2015. Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore, 2015.

"We Are God's People" ©1976 Fred Bock Music Co. Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976; Music: Johannes Brahms, 1876, arr. Fred Bock, 1976.

When will God stop loving me? Only when the sun stops shining, the moon and the stars disappear, and we know everything about everything. In other words, never.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory