



November 17, 2024

The Whole Hog

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

To follow Christ is to renounce all lesser loyalties...It is to abdicate the throne of our heart and do homage to him as our King...He does not call us to a sloppy half-heartedness, but to a vigorous, absolute commitment.

John Stott
British Anglican pastor and theologian

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Proverbs 11:24-25

"And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always."

Deuteronomy 14:23

God cannot bless the individual, church or nation that can spare him nothing.

Joyce Baldwin
20th-century British Anglican OT scholar

Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 1:3

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written,

"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Faithless testing asks God to make the first move, delays obedience, and seeks to make the Master our servant... Faithful testing, on the other hand, involves the believer's making the first move, embracing obedience to God's call even if it seems counterintuitive or foolish.

Iain Duguid
Presbyterian pastor and OT scholar

We always pay dearly for chasing what is cheap.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
20th-century Russian novelist and historian

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38

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!

Psalm 115

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

Leader: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

Psalm 117

People: **For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!**

We praise the Lord that his glory would be known

"The God of Abraham Praise"

1. The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove, An -
 2. The God of A - braham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand from
 3. He by him - self has sworn, I on his oath de - pend; I
 4. The whole tri - um - phant host gives thanks to God on high; "Hail

5
 cient of ev - er - last - ing days and God of right love. Je -
 earth I rise, and seek the joys at his right hand. I
 shall, on ea - gles' wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend. I
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry. Hail

9
 ho - vah! Great I AM! by earth and heav'n con - fessed; I
 all on earth for - sake, its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r, and
 shall be - hold his face, I shall his pow'r a - dore, and
 Ab - braham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays; all

13
 bow and bless the sa - cred name, for - ev - er blest.
 him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er more.
 might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Em G C G Em G D G
 G Em D Em G B
 Em D G Am Em B Em

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 delight in them.

"My Maker and My King"

My Ma - ker and my King, to thee my all I owe; thy
 The crea - ture of thy hand, on thee a - lone I live; my
 Lord, what can I im - part when all is thine be - fore? Thy
 O let thy grace in - spire my soul with strength di - vine; let

3 sover - eign boun - ty is the spring whence all my bless - ings flow; thy
 God, thy ben - e - fits de - mand more praise than I can give; my
 love de - mands a thank - ful heart, the gift, a - las! how poor, thy
 ev - 'ry word and each de - sire and all my days be thine; let

5 sover - eign boun - ty is the spring whence all my bless - ings
 God, thy ben - e - fits de - mand more praise than I can
 love de - mands a thank - ful heart, the gift, a - las! how
 ev - 'ry word and each de - sire and all my days be

7 flow.
 give.
 poor.
 thine.

G Bm Em Cmaj7
 D C Em D C
 D Em C D
 G Bm Em Cmaj7 G

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!); "I am the LORD, and there is no other... To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance."
 Isaiah 45

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God proclaims our sin and calls us to come to him

“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.”

Isaiah 43

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.

1 John 1

We confess that our sin is more than we can manage

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.

We thank you that 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.

Grant we, who have fled to you for refuge,
strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us,
that we would stake our whole eternity on a life we have not lived
and a death we did not die.

We ask this by the power of his work on our behalf. 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 of Christ's death and resurrection.

God declares his grace, what he has given for us: his Son

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 2

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2

We rest in God's grace, giving his Son for us

"Upon a Life I Have Not Lived"



1. Up - on a ___ life I have not lived, up - on a



4 death I did ___ not die; an - oth - er's life, an - oth - er's death, I stake my whole e - ter - ni - ty.



7
2. Not on the tears which I ___ have shed, not on the
3. Lord, I be - lieve; O deal ___ with me as one who



9 sor - rows I ___ have known; an - oth - er's tears, an - oth - er's ___ griefs; on these I
has thy Word be - lieved; I take the gift, Lord look on ___ me as one who



11 rest, on these ___ a - lone. O ___ Je - sus, Son of God, I
has thy gift ___ re - ceived.



13 build on what thy cross has done for ___ me. ___



15 There both my life and death I read, my guilt, my par - don



17 there I ___ see, ___ there I ___ see.

D.S. al Fine

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From 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. But you say, 'How shall we return?' ⁸Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. ¹¹I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:6-12

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Per Almquist

The Whole Hog

1. A keeping problem (**6-9**)
2. A giving challenge (**10**)
3. A blessing promise (**11-12**)

Preaching is how we learn to think God's thoughts after him in this world.

We rest in God's certain, unchanging love and cry out to return it

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"



1. O Love that will not let me go, I
 2. O Light that fol - low'st all my way, I
 3. O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I
 4. O Cross that lift - est up my head, I



rest my wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the
 yield my flick - 'ring torch to thee; my heart re - stores its
 can - not close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow
 dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust, life's



life I owe, that in thine o - cean depths its flow may
 bor - rowed ray, that in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may
 through the rain, and feel the prom - ise is not vain that
 glo - ry dead, and from the ground there blos - soms red life



rich - er, full - er be.
 bright - er, fair - er be.
 morn shall tear - less be.
 that shall end - less be.

I have loved you
 with an everlasting
 love; therefore I
 have continued
 my faithfulness to
 you.
 Jeremiah 31

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper, proclaiming that God gave himself wholly for us in the death of Jesus Christ, and giving ourselves wholly to him in response

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.

Romans 5-6

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... 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. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, 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.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? [3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Why is the Lord's body represented by bread and his blood by wine? To teach us that such power as bread has in nourishing our bodies for the support of the present life, the same is in the body of the Lord for the spiritual nourishment of our souls; and that as by wine the hearts of men are exhilarated, their strength refreshed, and the whole man invigorated, so our souls receive like benefits from the Lord's blood.

John Calvin

We answer his giving challenge by going the whole hog, giving our tithes, offerings, and lives to him

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

"Hear, O Israel:
The LORD our
God, the LORD is
one. You shall love
the LORD your
God with all your
heart and with all
your soul and with
all your might. And
these words that I
command you
today shall be on
your heart."
Deuteronomy 6

C F F/A G Am Am/G

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse
3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways, on - ly,
4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its

F G sus G C F F/A G

7 Lord to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be
for my king. Take my lips, and let them be
I with - hold Take my in - tel - lect, and use
lon - ger mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;
treas - ure store. Take my self, and I will be

Am Am/G F G

14 let them flow in cease - less praise,
swift and beau - ti - ful for thee,
filled with mes - sag - es from thee,
ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,
it shall be thy roy - al throne,
e - ver, on - ly, all for thee,

Am Am/G F G sus G

let them flow in cease - less praise.
swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
it shall be thy roy - al throne.
e - ver, on - ly, all for thee!

2, 4, 6. G Am G F Em F/D G sus G

23 Take my life, all I am; take my life and make it thine.

We cry out in prayer to be his, wholly and completely

*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 respond to his giving himself wholly for us by giving ourselves wholly for him

"All for Jesus"

1. All for Je - sus, all for Je - sus,
 2. Let my hands per - form his bid - ding,
 3. World - lings prize their gems of beau - ty,
 4. Since my eyes were fixed on Je - sus,
 5. O what won - der! how a - ma - zing!

all my be - ing's ran - somed pow'rs,
 let my feet run in his ways;
 cling to gold - ed toys of dust,
 I've lost sight of all be - side;
 Je - sus, glo - rious King of kings,

all my thoughts and words and do - ings,
 let my eyes see Je - sus on - ly,
 boast of wealth and fame and plea - sure;
 so deigns to - chained my spi - rit's vi - sion,
 call me his be - lov - ed,

all my days and all my hours.
 let my lips speak forth his praise.
 on - ly Je - sus will I trust.
 look - ing at rest the cru - ci - fied.
 lets me rest be - neath his wings.

You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body
 1 Corinthians 6

Ephesians 1 & 6

We receive the blessing promise secured for us in Jesus Christ

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed you in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose you in him before the foundation of the world, that you should be holy and blameless before him...Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

People: Amen

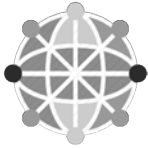
*Please stay and join us for a time of enjoying each other's company.
This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know, and as we meet someone new.*



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



Credits

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Joanne Crosby, *flute*; Dan Crawford, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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"MATILDA SAID, "NEVER DO
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- ROALD DAHL, MATILDA

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory

