



January 19, 2025

Bearing With One Another
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Once you choose Christ, you must choose His people, too. It's a package deal. Choose the Father and the Son and you have to choose the whole family.

Jonathan Leeman
Baptist elder, author, and journalist

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.

Desmond Tutu
South African Anglican bishop and theologian

Love bears all things...
1 Corinthians 13:7a

... So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
Romans 12:5

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Colossians 3:12-13

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

'The life of faith revealed in the Biblical narratives is highly personal but never merely individual: always there is a family, a tribe, a nation – church. God's love and salvation are revealed and experienced in the congregation of the people "who know the festal shout" (Ps. 89:15), not "in the garden, alone."

Eugene Peterson
Presbyterian pastor, author, and poet

The implications of this family membership are far-reaching, in terms of our attitudes toward one another. Not to love our Christian brothers and sisters, not to seek their welfare, is an offense against the very nature of what it means to be a Christian.

Sinclair Ferguson
Scottish Presbyterian pastor and theologian

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Psalm 95

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

People: **For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

Leader: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

People: **Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

We come to the Lord, singing and kneeling

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

1 All cre - atures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2 Thou ru - shing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n a -
 3 Thou flo - wing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for thy Lord to
 4 And all ye men of ten - der heart, for - gi - ving o - thers, take your
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou bur - ning sun with gol - den
 long, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ri - sing morn in praise re -
 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and
 part, O — sing ye, Al - le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row
 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

beam, thou sil - ver moon with sof - ter gleam, O — praise him, O —
 joice, ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O — praise him, O —
 bright, that giv - est man both warmth and light, O — praise him, O —
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O — praise him, O —
 Son and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One, O — praise him, O —

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

The gospel draws us into communal life with other people. Worship is a first-person plural activity. It is extremely significant that in worship, otherwise remarkably different people offer praise together, listen together, and profess one faith together.

“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

“O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!
 2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!
 3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!

5
 Vast, un - mea - sured, bound - less to free;
 Spread his - praise from shore to shore;
 Love of ev - 'ry love the best:

9
 roll - ing as a might - y o - cean
 how he lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth,
 'tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing,

13
 in its full - ness o - ver me.
 chang - eth nev - er, nev - er - more.
 'tis a ha - ven sweet of rest.

17
 Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,
 How he watch - es o'er his loved ones,
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus!

21
 is the cur - rent of thy love;
 died to call them all his own;
 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;

25
 lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward,
 how for them he in - ter - ced - eth,
 and it lifts me up to glo - ry,

29
 to thy glo - rious rest a - bove.
 watch - eth o'er them from the throne.
 for it lifts me up to thee.

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God declares how we must come to him and our failure to do it

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?"... He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6

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

Psalm 14

We confess that we have sinned and turned aside from God

We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally, before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that all people are sinners, fleeing from God, but in Jesus Christ we, find peace and healing. In his death on the cross, he took our sin and paid the price for it. This he does solely because of God's love for us.

God declares his love for us, displayed in Jesus Christ

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us... In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 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 3, 4

In this the love of
 God was made
 manifest among us,
 that God sent his
 only Son into the
 world, so that we
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 him. 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

We rejoice and rest in his love made manifest

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how
 2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my
 3. I will not boast in an - y - thing: no

2
 vast be - yond all meas - ure, that he should give his on - ly Son to
 sin up - on his shoul - ders; a - shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call
 gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom; but I will boast in Je - sus Christ: his

4
 make a wretch his treas - ure. How great the pain of sear - ing loss; the
 out a - mong the scof - fers. It was my sin that held him there un -
 death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why should I gain from his re - ward? I

6
 Fa - ther turns his face a - way as wounds which mar the cho - sen One bring
 til it was ac - com - plished; his dy - ing breath has brought me life; I
 can - not give an an - swer; but this I know with all my heart: his

8
 man - y sons to glo - ry.
 know that it is fin - ished.
 wounds have paid my ran - som. Why

12
 should I gain from his re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer; but

14
 this I know with all my heart: his wounds have paid my ran - som.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." ⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:1-16

Sermon

Rev. Adam Lee

Bearing With One Another

One Another: Covenant Family Life

Grafted into his family,

1. We remember our unity (**4-6**)
2. We recognize our diversity (**7-11, 1-3**)
3. We realign our goals (**12-16**)

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 sing out to display our unity in Christ with our lives

“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

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper and, united to Christ in his death and resurrection by the Spirit, are grafted into God's family and strengthened for life together

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 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.

Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The wonder of the Table is this: we neither drag Christ back down to earth nor "celebrate his absence," but rather... find ourselves drawn up by the Spirit and united to the Heavenly Christ.
Reggie Kidd

*Westminster Confession of
Faith 26.1 & 2*

The Westminster Confession of Faith was written in England in the 1640s. It is both careful in its theology and deeply pastoral in its approach. As part of our doctrinal standards, it expresses what we believe Scripture teaches, framing it for the needs of the people of God.

We proclaim together our family identity and goals by giving our tithes and offerings and professing our unity in Christ

All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offers opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

We come to our God and Father of all as his people, praying that he would strengthen us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling

*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 glorify God for his love showered upon us

"Father, Long Before Creation"

1. Fa - ther, long be - fore cre - a - tion thou hast cho - sen us ___ in love; ___
 2. Though the world may change its ___ fash - ion, yet our God is e'er ___ the same; ___
 3. God's com - pas - sion is my sto - ry, ___ is my boast - ing all ___ the day; ___
 4. Lov - ing Fa - ther, now be - fore thee we will ev - er praise thy love; ___

5
 and that love so ___ deep, so ___ mov - ing, ___
 his com - pas - sion ___ and his cov - 'nant ___
 mer - cy free and ___ nev - er ___ fail - ing ___
 and our songs will ___ sound un - ceas - ing ___

7
 draws us close to Christ a - bove. ___ Still it keeps us,
 through all a - ges will ___ re - main. ___ God's own chil - dren,
 moves my will, di - rects ___ my way. ___ God so loved us,
 'til we reach our home ___ a - bove. ___ Giv - ing glo - ry,

10
 still it keeps us ___ firm - ly fixed in Christ a - lone. ___
 God's own chil - dren must for - ev - er praise his name. ___
 God so loved us ___ that his on - ly Son ___ he gave. ___
 giv - ing glo - ry ___ to our God and to ___ the Lamb; ___

13
 Giv - ing glo - ry, giv - ing glo - ry ___ to our God and to ___ the Lamb.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
 Ephesians 1

God declares the blessing of his love upon his family

Leader: He has loved you with an everlasting love; therefore he will continue his faithfulness to you... May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Jeremiah 31

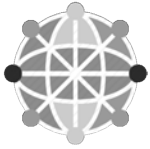
! Thessalonians 3



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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Dan Crawford, *voice*; Shannon VanDyke, *voice*; Judah Paris, *guitar*; Millie Barnard, *piano*

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"Father, Long Before Creation" ©2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings (ASCAP) admin. by the Loving Company. Words: from a Chinese Hymn. Translated: Francis Johnson, 1953. Music: Andrew Osenga, 2005.

Dear God,

I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Nan

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory

