



February 23, 2025

Conversations of Hope
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

The gospel is not speculation but fact.
It is truth, because it is the record of a
person who is the Truth.

Alexander Maclaren
19th-century Scottish Baptist minister

If I say, "I will not
mention him, or speak
any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were
a burning fire shut up in my
bones, and I am weary with
holding it in, and I cannot.
Jeremiah 20:9

The most important thing I can tell you is that
God doesn't want us to have a "yo-yo" faith, and
He has done everything possible to give us a
strong and stable faith. The key is to build our
faith not on our feelings but on facts—the facts
of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and the
facts of His promises and His presence with us.

Billy Graham
20th-century evangelist

"For we
cannot but speak
of what we have
seen and heard."
Acts 4:20

I write these
things to you who
believe in the name of
the Son of God, that you
may know that you have
eternal life.

1 John 5:13

For we did not
follow cleverly devised
myths when we made known to
you the power and coming of our
Lord Jesus Christ, but we were
eyewitnesses of his majesty... And we
have the prophetic word more fully
confirmed, to which you will do well to
pay attention as to a lamp shining in a
dark place, until the day dawns and
the morning star rises in your
hearts.

2 Peter 1:16, 19

He had been
instructed in the way
of the Lord. And being
fervent in spirit, he spoke
and taught accurately the
things concerning Jesus,
though he knew only the
baptism of John.

Acts 18:25

The Christian is called to be a
witness, not a judge, and to
present the truth, not to impose it.

Arthur Pink
20th-century English Bible teacher

Hence I cannot be silent—nor,
indeed, is it expedient—about the
great benefits and the great grace which the Lord has deigned
to bestow upon me in the land of my captivity; for this we can
give to God in return after having been chastened by Him, to
exalt and praise His wonders before every nation that is
anywhere under the heaven.

St. Patrick
5th-century Romano-British missionary and Bishop of Ireland

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Psalms 96

Leader: Oh sing to the LORD, all the earth! 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!

People: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**

Leader: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

People: **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

We sing to the Lord, telling of his salvation

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!
shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth.
Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
All that have life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw near;
Hast thou not seen how all thy long - ings have been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - migh - ty can do,
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain;

praise him in glad ad - or - a - tion.
grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
if with his love he be - friend thee.
glad - ly, for, aye, we a - dore him.

Biblical worship is always a response to God's gracious revelation of himself to his people. Hence, all our worship services begin with a Scriptural call to worship God.

"Call Jehovah Your Salvation"



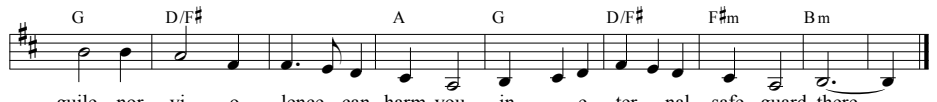
1. Call Je - ho - vah your sal - va - tion, rest be - neath th'Al - migh - ty's shade;
 2. From the sword at noon - day wast - ing, from the noise - some pes - ti - lence,
 3. Since, with pure and firm af - fec - tion you on God have set your love,



in his se - cret hab - i - ta - tion dwell, and ne - ver be dis - mayed:
 in the depth of mid - night blast - ing, God shall be your sure de - fense:
 with the wings of his pro - tec - tion he will shield you from a - bove:



there no tu - mult shall a - larm you, you shall dread no hid - den snare:
 he shall charge his an - gel le - gions watch and ward o'er you to keep;
 you shall call on him in trou - ble, he will hear - ken, he will save;



guile nor vi - o - lence can harm you, in e - ter - nal safe - guard there.
 though you walk through hos - tile re - gions, though in des - ert wilds you sleep.
 here for grief re - ward you dou - ble, crown with life be - yond the grave.

Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Psalm 91

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God calls to us of our sin, our failure to know or receive him

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken... "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand."

Isaiah 1

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

John 1

We ask God to open our eyes to see the fullness of our sin "Come, Holy Spirit, Come"



1. Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, come; let thy bright beams a - rise; dis -
2. Con - vince us of our sin, then lead to Je - sus' blood, and



pel the dark - ness from our minds and o - pen all our eyes.
to our wond' - ring view re - veal the se - cret love of God. *Chorus: Come,*



Ho - ly Spi - rit come! Give light to dark - ened eyes;



kin - dle in our hearts the flames of ne - ver dy - ing love. 3. 'Tis



thing to cleanse the heart, to sanc - ti - fy the soul, to pour fresh life in
there - fore, in our hearts; our minds from bon - dage free, then we shall know and



ev - 'ry part, and re - cre - ate us whole. 4. Dwell,
praise and love the Fa - ther, Son, and thee. *Chorus: Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit come! Give*



light to dark - ened eyes; kin - dle in our hearts the flames of ne - ver dy - ing love.

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."
John 16

God proclaims forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ

In Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority... And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

We praise God for the cross of Christ that pays our debt and draws us to him

"Lift High the Cross"

Lift high the cross the love of Christ pro - claim,
 5 'till all the world a - dore his sac - red name;
 9 lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim,
 13 'till all the world a - dore his sac - red name!
 17 1. Come, Christ - ians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2. O Lord, once lift - ted on the glo - rious tree,
 3. For thy blest cross which does for us a - tone,
 21 our King vic - tor - ious, Christ, the Son of God,
 as thou has prom - ised, draw men un - to thee!
 cre - a - tion's prais - es rise be - fore thy throne! (Go to chorus)
 25 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
 Thy king - dom come that earth's des - pair may cease;
 29 the hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
 be - neath the sha - dow of its heal - ing peace.

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
 John 12

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

¹Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ²just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Luke 1:1-4

Sermon

Rev. Adam Lee

Conversations of Hope

That You May Be Certain

Because God has declared his gospel to us, we must share it

1. Broadly (**1-2**)

2. Personally (**3**)

3. Accurately (**3**)

4. Confidently (**4**)

God has given us the ability to hear him speak through his word, the Bible.

We turn to it throughout our worship to hear God speak to us about who he is and who we are.

We tell of his gospel, the triumphs of his grace

"O for a Thousand Tongues"

1.O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise, the
 2.My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim, to
 3.Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis
 4.He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris 'ner free; his
 5.He speaks and, list - 'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive; the
 6.Hear him, ye deaf, his praise, ye dumb, your loos - en'd tongues em - ploy; ye

6
 glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace.
 spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.
 mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 blind, be - hold your Sav - ior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Sing praises to the
 LORD, who sits
 enthroned in Zion!
 Tell among the
 peoples his deeds!
 Psalm 9

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper, proclaiming Jesus Christ and his death on the cross to ourselves and the world as the only way of salvation

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.

John 3

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

By this he declares himself to be the bread of life, of which he who eats will live forever. And to do this, the Sacrament sends us to the cross of Christ, where that promise was indeed performed and in all respects fulfilled.

John Calvin

We offer our tithes and offerings as a declaration of our faith, sharing with the world the gospel of Jesus Christ by our lives

Elder: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: **That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Elder: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: **Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said,
“Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them... grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness.”

Acts 4

We join the early church, praying for boldness to speak his word and share his gospel

*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 for his kingdom to come as we share his gospel with our friends, our community, and our world

"Let Your Kingdom Come"

1. Your glo-rious cause, O God, en - ga - ges our hearts.
2. Give us your strength, O God, and cour-age to speak.

5 May Je - sus Christ be known where - ev - er we are.
Per - form your won - drous deeds through those who are weak.

9 We ask not for our - selves, but for your re - nown.
Lord, use us as you want, what - ev - er the test.

13 The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your king - dom come."
By grace we'll preach your gos - pel 'till our dy - ing breath.

18 Let your king - dom come, — let your will be done. — so that ev - 'ry-one

24 — might know your Name. — Let your song be heard — ev - 'ry - where on earth,

30 — 'till your sov - 'reign work — on earth is done: — let your king - dom come! —

Pray then like this:
"Our Father in
heaven, hallowed
be your name. Your
kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in
heaven."
Matthew 6

We receive the promise of the gospel, the blessing of God's work in Christ

Leader: Now may your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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.*

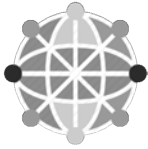
Philippians 1



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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Connor Crawford, *voice*; Shane Stephens, *percussion*; Judah Paris, *guitar*; Jacob Paris, *guitar*

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When our hearts are filled with Christ's presence,
evangelism is as inevitable as it is contagious.

Bryan Green

20th-century Anglican priest and evangelist
sometimes described as the Anglican Billy Graham

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory