



March 30th, 2025

Grace Upon Grace

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

If the people do not like the doctrine of grace, give them all the more of it.

C.H. Spurgeon
19th century Baptist minister

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Isaiah 43:19-21

Scripture's denial that our best works are sufficient in themselves to please God or to compensate for our weaknesses makes our spiritual desperation more acute and, thus, our appreciation of grace becomes more emphatic. Overwhelming gratitude for the spiritual deliverance our Savior alone provides will engender a humble and glad willingness to dedicate the strength of our lives to our Savior's glory.

Dr. Bryan Chapell
Stated Clerk of the P.C.A.

The very center and core of the whole Bible is the doctrine of the grace of God — the grace of God which depends not one whit upon anything that is in man, but is absolutely undeserved, resistless and sovereign. The theologians of the Church can be placed in an ascending scale according as they have grasped that one great central doctrine, that doctrine that gives consistency to all the rest; and Christian experience also depends for its depth and for its power upon the way in which that blessed doctrine is cherished in the depths of the heart. The center of the Bible, and the center of Christianity, is found in the grace of God; and the necessary corollary of the grace of God is salvation through faith alone.

J. Gresham Machen
Early 20th Century Presbyterian Pastor, theologian

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From 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?' Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring 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.

Malachi 3:6-10

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Psalm 103

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

Leader: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

Psalm 146

We rejoice in the living God who remembers his covenant through the ages

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

1. Our God, our help in a - ges 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 a - ges past, our

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

7
 storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 you are God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Our declaration of God's faithfulness in the past, is also a celebration that we know He will be faithful in the present, and in the future as well.

"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"



1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -
 2. Hap - py is the man that choos - es Is - rael's God to
 3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the mourn - ing
 4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah, O my soul, Je -



ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es of my God through
 be his aid; he is blest whose hope of bless - ing on the Lord his
 pris - 'ner free, rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less
 ho - vah praise; I will sing the glo - rious prais - es, of my God through



all my days. Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor for help on
 God is stayed. Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - a - ted, seas and all that
 eyes to see. Well Je - ho - vah loves the right - eous, and the stran - ger
 all my days. O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er, through all ag - es



man de - pend; he shall die, to dust re - turn - ing,
 they con - tain; he de - liv - ers from op - press - ion,
 he be - friends, helps the fa - ther - less and wid - ow,
 he is King; un - to him, thy God, O Zi - on,



and his pur - po - ses shall end.
 righ - teous - ness he will main - tain.
 judg - ment on the wick - ed sends.
 joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing.

Your faithfulness
 endures to all
 generations; you
 have established
 the earth, and it
 stands fast.

By your
 appointment they
 stand this day,
 for all things are
 your servants.

Psalm 119:90-91

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God proclaims that although He is faithful, we are not

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

We confess our unfaithfulness to him

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 Jesus Christ would be the sure and steadfast anchor of our souls.

We ask this by the power of his work on our behalf. Amen.

"The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation." Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."
Numbers 14:18-19

God declares his mercy and grace to sinners

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... 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.

1 Peter 1

Colossians 2

We rejoice in his mercy that is more than our sin

“His Mercy is More”



1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done? Om -
 2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam? What
 3. What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us. His



4 ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum. Thrown
 Fa - ther, so ten - der is call - ing us home? He
 blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost. We



6 in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore; Our
 wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor. Our
 stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford; Our



9 sins, they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!
 sins, they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!
 sins, they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!



11 Praise the Lord, his mer - cy is more.



16 Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; Our sins, they are man - y, his mer - cy is more! mercy is more!



21 Praise the Lord, his mer - cy is more.



26 Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; Our sins, they are man - y, his



29 mer - cy is more! Our sins, they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

God's mercy can
 cover great sins, as
 the sea covers
 great rocks.
 Thomas Watson

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. ⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

Luke 1:57-80

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God,
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Sermon

Rev. Adam Lee

Grace Upon Grace
That You May Be Certain

We are to praise him because he pours out:

1) Connecting Grace (**v57-58**)

2) Disrupting Grace (**v59-63**)

3) Restoring Grace (**v64-80**)

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

In the Lord's Supper, the believer is strengthened and fed. In keeping the sacrament as a sign, we gain from it a strengthened faith; as a seal of God's covenant, we gain increased assurance of salvation and communion with God.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper, proclaiming the amazing grace of God that all the benefits of Christ's death on the cross are ours by faith

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.

"I Thirst"



1. I thirst, thou woun - ded Lamb of God, to wash me in thy
2. Take my poor heart and let it be for - e - ver closed to
3. How blest are they who still a - bide close shel - tered in thy
4. What are our works but sin and death, 'til thou thy quick - 'ning
5. Hence our hearts melt, our eyes o'er - flow; our words are lost, nor



clean - sing blood, to dwell with - in thy wounds; then pain is
all but thee; seal thou my breast, and let me wear that
bleed - ing side, who life and strength from thence de - rive, and
Spi - rit breathe? Thou giv'st the pow'r, thy grace to move; O
will we know, nor will we think of aught be - side my



sweet, and life or death is gain.
pledge of love for - e - ver there
by thee move and in thee live!
won - drous grace! O bound - less love!
Lord, my love, is cru - ci - fied.

We proclaim our faith in the triune God

Leader: What is it we believe about God, the Father?

People: **We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

Leader: What is it we believe about Jesus Christ?

People: **We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who, for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

Leader: What is it we believe about the Holy Spirit?

People: **And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Perhaps the most widely used statement of the Christian faith, the Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea in AD 325. It was written to declare that central to the Christian identity and proclamation is that our God is triune. The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that God is one in essence, three in persons. While there is a glorious mystery here, we accept what the Bible teaches about God, as he exists in the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In prayer, we come to the God who came to us and gave us more than we could ask or imagine, that he would work in and through us

*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 go out, joining Zechariah, praising Jehovah for all his mercies to us

“Now unto Jehovah”

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.
Psalm 29:1-2

Now un - to Je - ho - vah, ye sons of the migh - ty, all
5 glo - ry and strength and do - min - ion ac - cord; as - cribe to him glo -
10 - ry, and ren - der him hon - or. In beau - ty of ho - li - ness wor - ship the Lord!
17 1. The voice of Je - ho - vah comes down on the wa - ters; in thun - der the God
2. The voice of Je - ho - vah is migh - ty, is migh - ty; the voice of Je - ho -
3. Each one in his tem - ple his glo - ry pro - claim - eth. He sat on the flood;
23 of the glo - ry draws nigh. Lo, o - ver the waves of the wide - flow - ing
- vah in maj - es - ty speaks: the voice of Je - ho - vah the ce - dars is
he is King on his throne. Je - ho - vah all strength to his peo - ple im -
29 wa - ters Je - ho - vah as King is en - thron - ed on high!
break - ing; Je - ho - vah the ce - dars of Leb - a - non breaks.
part - eth; Je - ho - vah with peace ev - er bless - eth his own.

God declares grace upon grace through his son Jesus Christ

1 Peter 2

Leader: Now may the God of peace who sent his Son to bear our sins in his body on the tree, that we may die to sin and live to righteousness, build you up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

People: Amen

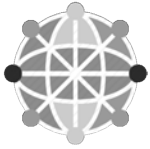
*Please stay and join us for a time of enjoying each other's company.
This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know, and as we meet someone new*



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 led 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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Meredith Stevens, *voice*; Abigail Lee, *violin*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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"Now Unto Jehovah" music ©2009 Gregory D. Wilbur. Words: Psalm 29, verse 1, *The Psalter*, 1912, verses 2-4, *Book of Psalms*, 1871. Music: Gregory D. Wilbur, 2009



PLEASE SIR

MAY I HAVE SOME MORE

quickmeme.com

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory