



**April 20th, 2025**

**Abundant Life!**

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

**Acts 2:36-39**

Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die, I risk my whole eternity on the resurrection.

C.H. Spurgeon

19-20<sup>th</sup> century British pastor  
known as "The Prince of Preachers"

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.

**Romans 6:3-4**

Christianity begins where all the religions of the world end, at death, and it starts with resurrection.

Unknown Author

Christ was wrongly accused and executed by Satan's earthly pawns. But His resurrection vindicated Him in the law courts of heaven and enabled Him to take away the devil's right and power as heavenly prosecutor.

G.K. Beale

Theology Professor, Author,  
Presbyterian Minister

To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

**Acts 26:22-23**

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**1 Thessalonians 4:14-18**

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Romans 6  
Psalm 95

Leader: 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.

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

## We come to worship Christ the risen King!

"Come, People of the Risen King"



1. Come, peo - ple of the ri - sen King, who de - light to bring him praise; come,  
2. Come, those whose joy is morn - ing sun, and those weep - ing in the night; come,  
3. Come, young and old from ev - 'ry land, men and wo - men of the faith; come,



all, and tune your harps to sing to the Mor - ning Star of grace. From the  
those who tell of bat - tles won, and those strug - gling in the fight. For his  
those with full or emp - ty hands; find the rich - es of his grace. O - ver



shift - ing sha - dows of the earth we will lift our eyes to him, where  
per - fect love will nev - er change, and his mer - cies nev - er cease, but  
all the world his peo - ple sing; shore to shore we hear them call the



stead - y arms of mer - cy reach to ga - ther chil - dren in. Re -  
fol - low us through all our days with the cer - tain hope of peace.  
truth that cries through ev - 'ry age: "Our God is all in all!"



joyce! Re - joyce! Let ev - 'ry tongue re - joyce! One heart, one



voice; O church of Christ re - joyce!

"Why do you seek  
the living among  
the dead? He is  
not here, but has  
risen."  
Luke 24

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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Romans 6

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? 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 the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The empty tomb of Easter is the assurance of our salvation. As the wages of sin is death (Romans 6), Christ's victory over death in his resurrection is our guarantee that by faith in him we find forgiveness, redemption from our sin, and in that eternal life.

## **We confess our need for a living savior**

Almighty God,

in raising Jesus from the grave,  
you shattered the power of sin and death.

We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.

We turn from you, our loving Father,  
and seek our own ways.

Our lips are ready to confess,  
but our hearts are slow to feel,  
and our ways reluctant to change.

We have used the gifts you have given to hide from you  
and ignored the cries of the struggling.

Grant that through the tears of our repentance  
we may see the glories of Christ's death and resurrection.

Fix our eyes upon him that we may be made more like him for your  
glory.

Amen.

## **God declares His Mercy through the Shepherd who gave his life for us**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep..." 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.

John 10

1 Peter 2

We rejoice and rest in his life, not our own

“Not What My Hands Have Done”

Slowly

1. Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - y soul;

2. Thy work a - lone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;

3. Thy grace a - lone, O God, to me can par - don speak;

4. I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;

3

not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can make my spir - it whole.

thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace with - in.

thy pow'r a - lone, O Son of God, can this sore bond - age break.

he calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.

5

Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;

Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee;

No oth - er work, save thine, no oth - er blood will do;

Tis he who sav - eth me, and free - ly par - don gives;

7

not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.

can rid me of this dark un - rest, and set my spir - it free!

no strength, save that which is di - vine, can bear me safe - ly through.

I love be - cause he lov - eth me, I live be - cause he lives,

10

1,2,3 4

I love be-cause he lov-eth me, I live be-cause he lives!

“Title”

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.  
Ephesians 2

The early church called Sunday the Lord's Day because it was on Sunday that Christ rose from the grave. So every Sunday we gather as his people and celebrate his resurrection and our hope in him.

# "Worship Christ, The Risen King"

1. Rise, O church, and lift your voice, Christ has con- quered death and hell.  
 2. See the tomb where death had laid him, emp- ty now, its mouth de- clares:  
 3. Hear the earth pro - test and trem - ble, see the stone re - moved with pow'r;  
 4. Doubt may lift its head to mur- mur, scoff- ers mock and sin- ners jeer;  
 5. We ac- claim your life, O Je- sus, now we sing your vic - to - ry;

Sing as all the earth re - joic - es; res - ur - rec - tion an- thems swell.  
 "Death and I could not con- tain him, for the throne of life he shares."  
 • all hell's min - ions may as- sem - ble, but can - not with - stand his hour.  
 but the truth pro - claims a won - der thought- ful hearts re - ceive with cheer.  
 sin or hell may seek to seize us, but your con - quest keeps us free.

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the ris - en King!  
 Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the ris - en King!  
 • He has con- quered, he has con- quered, Christ the Lord, the ris - en King!  
 He is ris - en, he is ris - en, now re - ceive the ris - en King!  
 Stand in tri - umph, stand in tri - umph, wor - ship Christ, the ris - en King!

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>[2]</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>[3]</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>[4]</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>[5]</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>[6]</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>[7]</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." <sup>[8]</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>[9]</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>[10]</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Matthew 28:1-10

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>[2]</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.<sup>[3]</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>[4]</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>[5]</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>[6]</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.<sup>[12]</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>[13]</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>[14]</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>[15]</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>[16]</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>[17]</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>[18]</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>[19]</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.<sup>[20]</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>[21]</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>[22]</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>[23]</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:1-6, 12-21

## **Abundant Life!**

Because Christ is Risen from the dead, we are to live abundantly:

1) Abundant Certainty (**1 Cor. 15:1-6**)

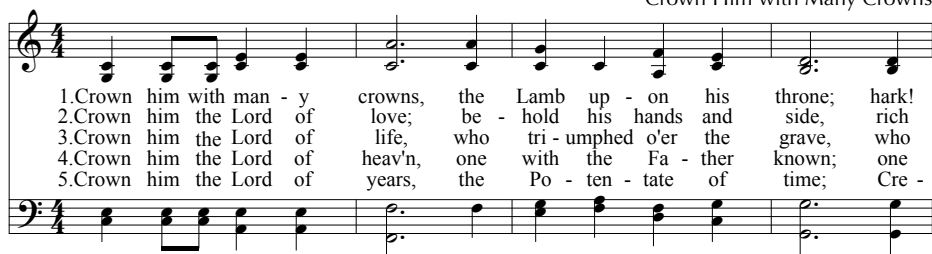
2) Abundant Centrality (**1 Cor. 15:12-19**)

3) Abundant Clarity (**1 Cor. 15:20-22**)

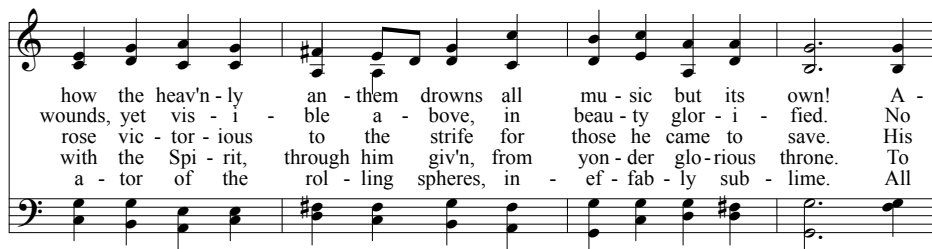


## We lift our voices, declaring the King of Kings as our king

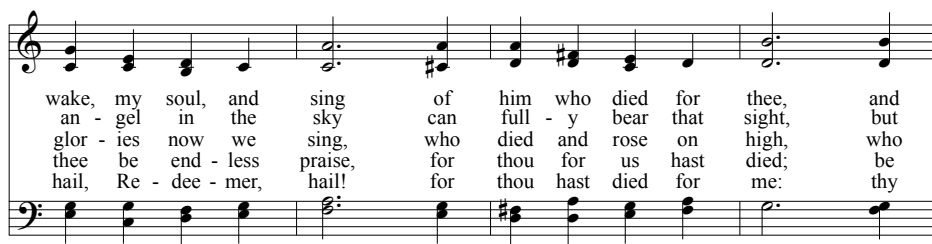
"Crown Him with Many Crowns"



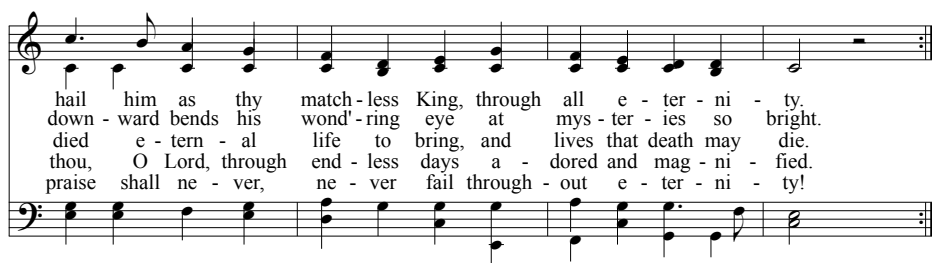
1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; hark!  
 2. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side, rich  
 3. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, who  
 4. Crown him the Lord of heav'n, one with the Fa - ther known; one  
 5. Crown him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time; Cre -



how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own! A -  
 wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied. No  
 rose vic - tor - ious to the strife for those he came to save. His  
 with the Spi - rit, through him giv'n, from yon - der glo - rious throne. To  
 a - tor of the rol - ling spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime. All



wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and  
 an - gel in the sky can full - y bear that sight, but  
 glor - ies now we sing, who died and rose on high, who  
 thee be end - less praise, for thou for us hast died; be  
 hail, Re - dee - mer, hail! for thou hast died for me: thy



hail him as thy match - less King, through all e - ter - ni - ty,  
 down - ward bends his wond' - ring eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 died e - tern - al life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thou, O Lord, through end - less days a - dored and mag - ni - fied.  
 praise shall ne - ver, ne - ver fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
 Philippians 2

# GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

## We celebrate the Father's love for us as he provides us with his Son

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.

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

In the Lord's Supper we partake of the benefits of the great redemptive act of history: Christ's death on the cross. We are united to Christ so much so that the Apostle Paul can say we have been crucified with him –and if we are crucified with him, we are raised with him (Romans 6).

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.

## **We proclaim the gospel which we have received**

Elder: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

**People: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.**

Elder: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**People: For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.**

Elder: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

**People: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, by whom all things were created, and in him all things hold together.**

Elder: And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

**People: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

1 Corinthians 15

Colossians 1

## **We come to God in the name of Christ to ask that he would be at work in us to live in the power of the resurrection.**

*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.*

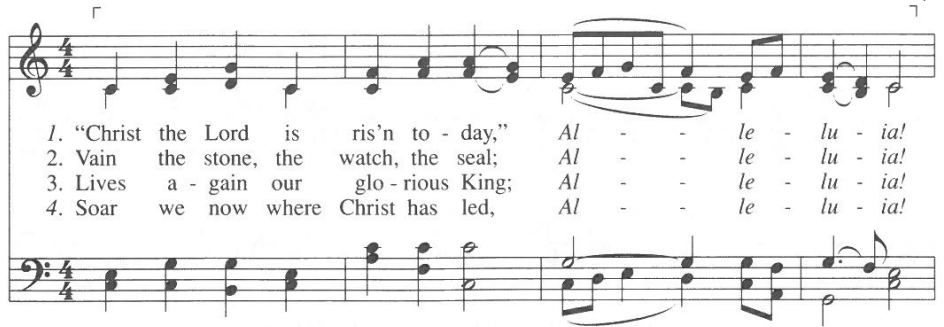
In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4

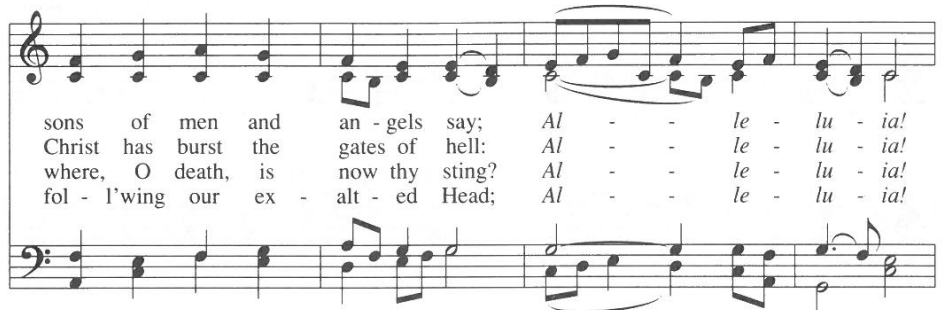
# GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

**We go out in the abundance of life that Christ provides**

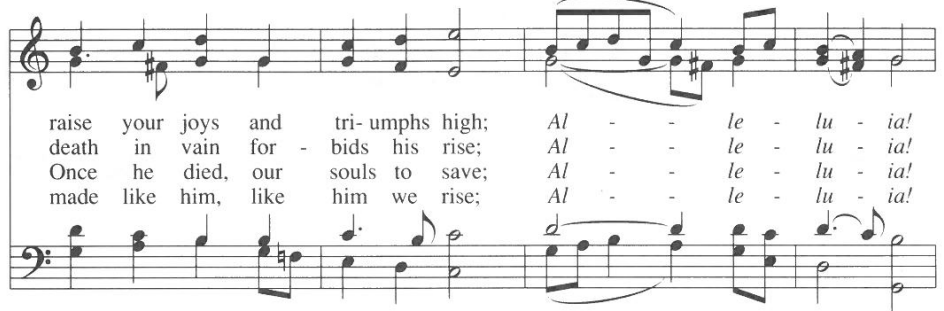
Christ the Lord is Risen Today”



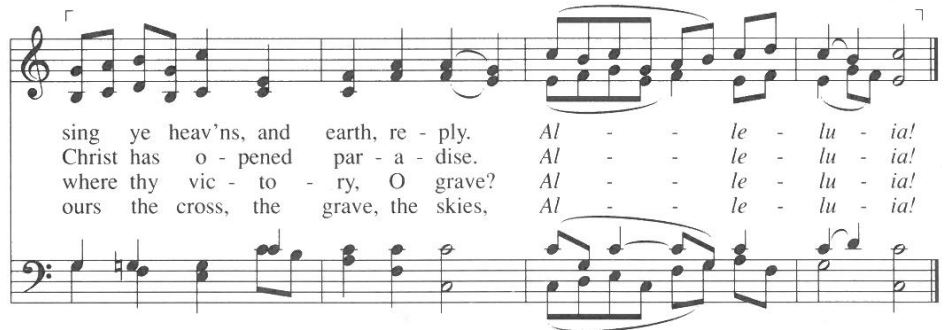
1. “Christ the Lord is ris’n to - day,” Al - - le - lu - ia!  
2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Al - - le - lu - ia!  
3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - - le - lu - ia!  
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le - lu - ia!



sons of men and an - gels say; Al - - le - lu - ia!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell: Al - - le - lu - ia!  
where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!  
fol - l’wing our ex - alt - ed Head; Al - - le - lu - ia!



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - - le - lu - ia!  
death in vain for - bids his rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!  
Once he died, our souls to save; Al - - le - lu - ia!  
made like him, like him we rise; Al - - le - lu - ia!



sing ye heav’ns, and earth, re - ply. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia!

"Jesus, Everlasting King"

Je - sus, ev-er-last - ing King, ac-cept the tri - bute which we bring;  
ac-cept the well - de - served re - nown and wear our prais - es as your crown.

1. O send your Spir - it to im - part  
2. The glad - ness of re - demp - tion's day:  
3. May ev - 'ry time of wor - ship see  
4. O that the months would roll a - way

rest and re - pent - ance to our hearts,  
your grace re - vealed more rich and free,  
and bring the cor - o - na - tion day;

like the dear hour, when from a - bove,  
nor let our faith for - sake its hold,  
till we are raised for to sing your name  
the King of grace shall fill the throne

we first re - ceived your pledge of love.  
nor com - forts sink, or love grow cold.  
at the great sup - per of the Lamb.  
with all his Fa - ther's glo - ries on.

**God declares his abundant blessings upon those who rest in Christ**

**Leader:** Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**People: Amen**

*Please stay and join us for a time of enjoying each other's company.*

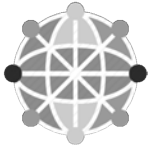
*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us  
as we reconnect with those we know, and as we meet someone new*

Hebrews 13



## 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.

## Credits

## 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



Cover artwork: "Empty Burial Tomb" by Clyde J. Kell- used by permission. (Original 20x16inc Acrylic on stretched canvas. Artist Note: A representational piece for myself as an Easter 2018 gift. An empty tomb, for some. For others a tomb that changed the world. I hope you can feel the emotion in this painting that I was trying to express). See more of Clyde's work at <https://clydej-kell.pixels.com/>

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Jocelyn Crawford, voice; Connor Crawford, voice; David Cosgrove, *viola*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

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If Christ is risen, nothing else matters.  
And if Christ is not risen—nothing else matters.

Jaroslav Pelikan  
20<sup>th</sup> century church historian

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory