



May 11th, 2025

The Unmissable Signs

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION:

Our hope is anchored in the past: Jesus rose! Our hope remains in the present: Jesus lives! Our hope is completed in the future: Jesus is coming!

Edmund Clowney
Presbyterian pastor and theologian

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. [When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

1 Sam 7:9-12

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Micah 5:2

Infinite, and an infant. Eternal, yet born of a woman. Almighty, yet hanging on a woman's breast. Supporting a universe, yet needing to be carried in a woman's arms. King of angels, yet the reputed son of Joseph. Heir of all things, and yet the carpenter's despised son.

Charles Spurgeon
19-20th century British pastor
known as "The Prince of Preachers"

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 2:36

The Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming, are like road signs along the highway. They tell you the who, what, when, where, why and how, ahead of time, so that when he comes, you cannot miss him.

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**

We glorify God who declares to us His gospel

"O Worship the King"

1. O wor - ship the King all glo - rious a - bove. and
 2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose
 3. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It
 4. Frail child - ren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in

5 grate - ful - ly sing his pow - er and his love. Our
 robe is the light, whose can - o - py space. His
 breathes in the air; shines in the light; it
 thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail; thy

9 shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pa -
 char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form, and
 streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain; and
 mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end, our

13 vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
 sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.
 Ma - ker, De - fen - der, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

As the church gathers in worship of our God, we get a foretaste, a glimpse, of the eternal reality of our worship. Our worship now blends with the songs and hallelujahs of those surrounding the throne of God in heaven.

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pro - strate fall; bring
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall; hail
 3. Let ev - 'ry kind - red, ev - 'ry tribe on this ter - res - trial ball; to
 4. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall; we'll

6
 forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all; bring
 him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all; hail
 him all maj - es - ty a - scribe, and crown him Lord of all; to
 join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all; we'll

11
 forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.
 him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.
 him all ma - jes - ty a - scribe, and crown him Lord of all.
 join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all.

And suddenly
 there was with the
 angel a multitude
 of the heavenly
 host praising God
 and saying,
 “Glory to God in
 the highest, and
 on earth peace
 among those with
 whom he is
 pleased!”

Luke 2

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God openly declares what he requires of us

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD...? Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

Deuteronomy 10

We confess our willful ignoring his clear requirements

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.

When we hear what God requires of us we are faced with the fact that we have not done and can not do what he requires. So for our worship to be honest it must acknowledge our failure. This leaves us no other hope but his grace and mercy.

God declares his mercy to us through Christ Jesus our Lord

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3

We rejoice in God's word spoken to us and cry out to truly hear it

"Speak, O Lord"

Fear not, for
 behold, I bring
 you good news of
 great joy that will
 be for all the
 people. For unto
 you is born this
 day in the city of
 David a Savior,
 who is Christ the
 Lord.
 Luke 2



1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you, to re - ceive the food of your
 2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly re - ver - ence, true hu -
 3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your



ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
 mi - li - ty. — Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us. — Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us _ in your like - ness. That the light of Christ might be
 ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your



seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
 prom - is - es; — and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.



Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us — all your
 Words of pow'r that can ne - ver fail; let their
 Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the



pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
 truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
 earth is filled with your glo - ry.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:1-20

[8] And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. [10] And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

[14] "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

[15] When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." [16] And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. [17] And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. [18] And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. [19] But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Unmissable Signs

That You May Be Certain

Because God has clearly kept his promises, we are to be certain:

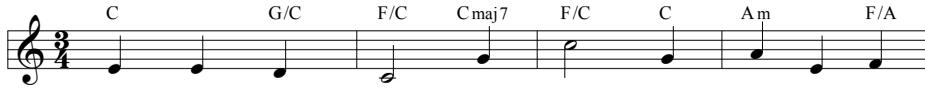
1) Of what the gospel is:

2) Of what the gospel effects

3) Of the gospels importance

We sing out with certainty of who the Christ child is

"Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"



1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
 2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
 3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,



5 all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
 all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
 Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.



9 thrones for a man - ger did sur - ren - der,
 stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
 E - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



13 sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.
 heav'n - ward by thine e - ter - nal plan.
 make us what thou would have us be.



17 Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
 Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
 Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,



21 all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
 all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
 Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship thee.

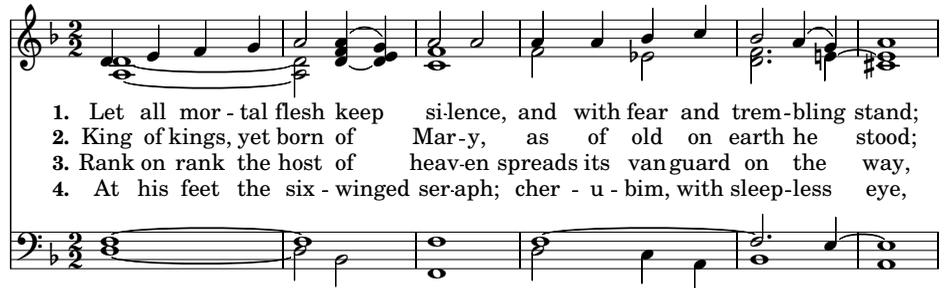
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
 Isaiah 7

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

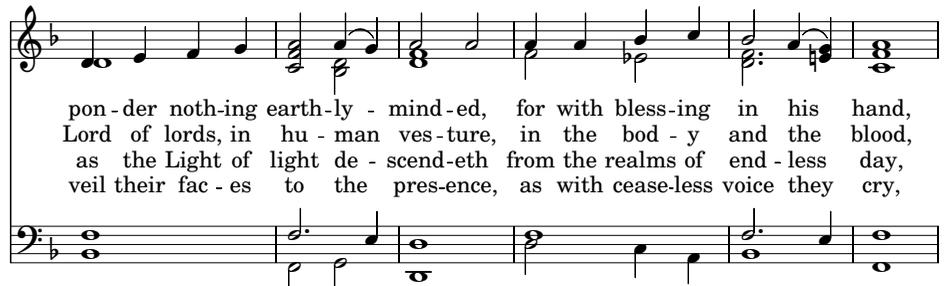
We celebrate the Lord's Supper to proclaim the salvation in the Christ child

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.

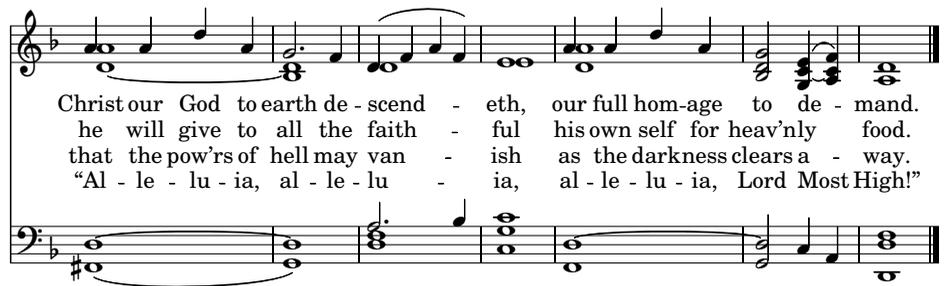
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood;
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its vanguard on the way,
4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand,
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'nly food.
that the pow'rs of hell may van - ish as the darkness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

The visible sign was useful for the confirmation and proof of the fact. And such is the use of sacraments, to strengthen us in proportion to our ignorance; for we are not angels, that can behold the mysteries of God without any assistance, and therefore he raises us to himself by gradual advances.

John Calvin

We profess that the promises of God are clearly fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Colossians 1

Isaiah 9

Leader: Scripture tells us that the Child who was born to us, the Son who was given to us, is Jesus Christ.

People: He 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. 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. 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.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

People: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Leader: For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

We give our offerings to God as a public demonstration of our faith, putting our money where our mouths are. In this action we show what we claim, that our lives are organized around God and lived for him instead of ourselves.

We come to God asking that we would live with the certainty provided in the 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

The offering is not a duty; it is the response of gratitude to the grace that has been given.

GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

We declare the importance of the gospel, telling all the world

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Unison

(*Ref.*) Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night, be-
 2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a-bove the earth rang
 3. Down in a low-ly man-ger our hum-ble Christ was born, and

hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light.
 out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
 God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
 Luke 2

We go out confidently under the blessing of God's Gospel

Leader: Rejoice in the LORD; exult in your God, for he has clothed you with the garments of salvation; he has covered you with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels... Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity

Isaiah 61

2 Peter 3

People: Amen

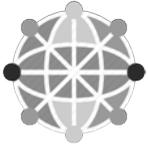
Please stay and join us for a time of refreshment and enjoying each other's company.

*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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Jocelyn Crawford, *voice*; Connor Crawford, *voice*; Beth Almquist, *piano*; Joanne Crosby, *flute*

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This is the way, walk in it.

The Holy Spirit

Isaiah 30:21

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory