

June 29, 2025 The Ties Which Bind

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

Above all, the church is not a club of the likeminded, but a covenant community of the forgiven—those who are bound not by preference, but by promise.

Kevin DeYoung PCA Pastor and theologian Moderator of the 52nd General Assembly

It is the will of God that we should covenant together in societies for the worship of God and the edification of one another. For thereby the communion of saints is both expressed and preserved.

Thomas Boston 18th century Scottish Presbyterian minister For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:4-5

Love is the bond of perfection in the church. Without it, all the ornaments of religion are but lifeless ceremonies.

John Owen 17th century English puritan theologian, pastor

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Christians are called to community, to live out their faith not as rugged individuals but as those who belong to one another in Christ.

Michael Horton
Professor at Westminster Seminary

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:14-15

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

People: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 147

Psalm 145



To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

1 John 4

God proclaims our love for him cannot be tainted by disregard for his people

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Matthew 5

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We confess that too often, we think only of ourselves and not Gods people

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.

Ephesians 2

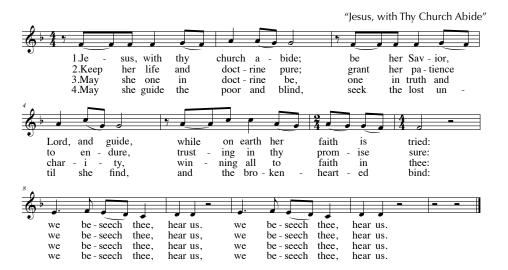
God declares that he binds us together through Christ

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...that He might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross... For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."

Friends: this is the gospel: In Christ, you are reconciled, you are welcomed, and you belong.



Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15



The church is the dearest place on earth to us. It is the fold of Christ, the home of His people, the resting place of the weary, and the nursery for heaven C.H. Spurgeon

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

[1] Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock. [2] So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation, [3] "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, [4] the land that the LORD struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock." [5] And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan."

Numbers 32:1-5

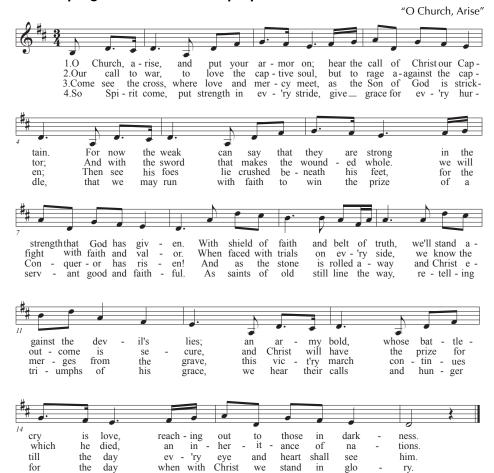
Sermon Rev. Adam Lee The Ties Which Bind

One Another: Covenant Family Life

Because Christ has made us a covenant family, we must live as those bound together in sacrificial love:

1) Refu s	a) not choosing comfort over calling
	b) not neglecting others burdens
	c) putting to death our number one idol
2) Retu i	rning with resolve to serve those God has bound you to a) remembering our vows
	b) Stepping up for the sake of others
	c) even when it costs you
3) Thro	ugh the Leadership of our greater Joshua a) Calling them/us to faithfulness
	b) leading them/us to courageous obedience
	c) experiencing a joy that didn't seem possible

We rise up together, united as God's people

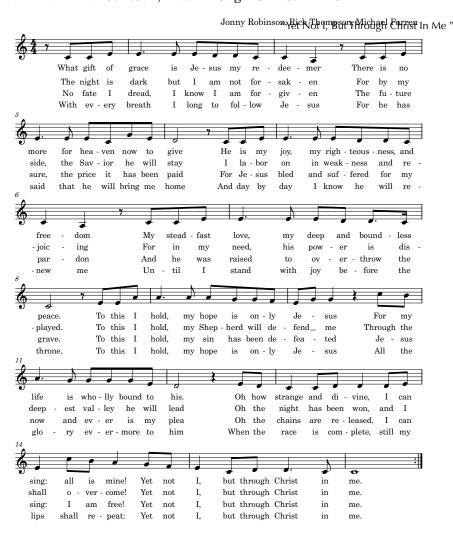


Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Isaiah 60

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's Supper as He strengthens our bonds by His body given and blood outpoured

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 specific of the statement of the participation.



As the bread is made one loaf from many grains, and the wine one cup from many grapes, so we, being many, are made one body in Christ. The Supper not only reminds us of Christ's death, but unites us in His life. Zacharias Ursinus

We declare our ties, not only to each other but every generation of believers as we confess our common faith

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed is a concise summary of their teachings that the church has been using for over 1500 years to profess its faith.

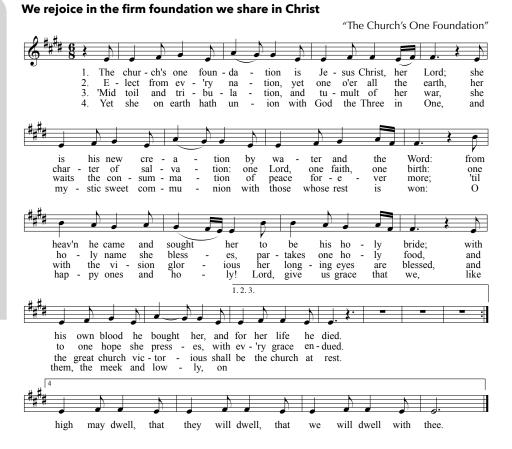
In prayer, we seek God's grace to strengthen our bond in love for His glory

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

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.



God promises that he will grant harmony and increased love for one another

Leader: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...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

Romans 15

1 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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Beth Almquist, piano; Shannon VanDyke, voice; Joanne Crosby, flute

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Our Daily Worship A through-the-week devotional



The following pages are provided for you with a desire to "lead you beside still waters". May they assist you in your walk with Christ through week, as you practice his presence, feed upon his word, and reflect upon how both impact your weekly life.

MONDAY

Ephesians 2:19–22 – "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God... In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

Reflection: God has never redeemed people into isolation. From the beginning, His plan has been to form a people—a covenant family bound together by grace. In Christ, these bonds are forged. The dividing walls fall. Strangers become family. Outsiders become insiders. Paul tells the Ephesians they are now part of something far greater: a household, a body, a temple. Not individual bricks lying loosely in the field, but "built together" as a dwelling place for God. This isn't just poetic... it is truth. To be joined to Christ is to be joined to His people.

We are members of one body. Our joys, our burdens, our spiritual lives are intertwined. We need one another because God designed it that way. We are bound—not by preference or convenience, but by the Spirit who lives in us.

Our Common Weakness: We prefer a private, individual faith that doesn't cost us anything. We act like free agents rather than covenant members.

Christ Connection: Jesus didn't just save us from sin; He saved us into a family. In His death and resurrection, He made us one—uniting us to Himself and to one another.

Ephesians 2:19–22. What specific images does Paul use to describe the church? How do each of them emphasize our shared identity?

1 Peter 2:4–5. What does Peter call us? What does this imply about each member?

1 Corinthians 3:9, 16. What does Paul call us in this passage? Can you see that we are a people bound together in Christ for his glory?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for not leaving us alone but binding us into Your family by grace. Build us together in love, and let Your Spirit dwell richly among us. Amen.

TUESDAY

Numbers 32:1–6 – "Shall your brothers go to war while you sit here?" (v. 6)

Reflection: The tribes of Reuben and Gad had a practical request—they wanted to settle east of the Jordan where the land was ideal for their livestock. But their request revealed a deeper issue: covenant carelessness. Moses' question pierces the heart of the matter: "Shall your brothers go to war while you sit here?"

They weren't just asking for land—they were choosing comfort over calling, and self-interest over shared responsibility. Covenant life isn't about securing the easiest path. It's about bearing burdens together. These tribes were tempted to settle early while others still had battles ahead. Moses saw what they couldn't: that failing to show up for their brothers wasn't just unfair—it was unfaithful.

Our Common Weakness: We want others to fight the hard battles while we enjoy the spoils. We excuse our absence with "good reasons" while our brothers bear the cost.

Christ Connection: Jesus never stood by while others fought. When we were helpless, He stepped forward—not for His comfort, but for our good.

Numbers 32:1–6. What exactly were Reuben and Gad asking for? Why was Moses so concerned?

Philippians 2:3–4. How does Paul describe the mindset that should guide us in community? What does it look like to "consider others more significant"?

Galatians 6:2. What does it mean to "bear one another's burdens"? How does this fulfill the law of Christ?

Prayer: Lord, forgive me for the times I've sat back while others bore the weight. Give me the heart of Christ, who stepped in for His people. Teach me to watch my sector, love my brothers, and show up when it counts. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Numbers 32:16–18 "We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, but we will take up arms, ready to go before the people of Israel... We will not return to our homes until each of the people of Israel has gained his inheritance."

Reflection: After Moses rebuked them, the tribes of Reuben and Gad responded with repentance and resolve. They promised to cross the Jordan with their brothers, to go ahead of them in battle, and not to return until every tribe had received their inheritance. Their priorities had shifted. No longer were they seeking comfort apart from their calling—they were stepping forward in sacrificial loyalty.

This is the heart of covenant renewal. They didn't withdraw in shame of past failures—they renewed their bonds. That is what repentance looks like. When we take our membership vows, we promise to support the body of Christ—not as a consumer, but as a servant. In an age of loose ties and low commitment, the Lord calls His people to live out covenant love with humility, perseverance, and resolve.

Our Common Weakness: We are faithful until it gets uncomfortable.

Christ Connection: Christ is the true vow-keeper. He bound Himself to us in love and fulfilled every promise, even unto death.

Numbers 32:16–18 – What are the tribes promising in this passage, and what does it reveal about their priorities?

Joshua 1:16–17 – How does their response reflect covenant loyalty to both Joshua and the people of God?

Romans 12:10–11 – How might you "outdo one another in showing honor" within your church this week?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for never giving up on your covenant with us. Strengthen my heart to follow through on what I've promised—to love, serve, and stand with those you've bound me to in Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY

Joshua 4:10–13 "The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, armed, before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them... about forty thousand ready for war passed over before the Lord for battle, to the plains of Jericho."

Reflection: When the time came, the tribes who once hesitated now led the way. Armed and ready, they crossed the Jordan ahead of their brothers, just as they had promised. Their courage didn't come from within—it came through leadership. Joshua called them to remember, to obey, and to take up their part in God's mission.

But behind Joshua stands one greater. Jesus, our true and better Joshua, leads His people into the eternal inheritance. He calls us faithfulness not by mere command, but by His own example. He pressed forward when we would have turned back.

Through His Spirit, He still goes before us, urging us into the life of sacrificial love. He is not a distant commander; He bore the full weight of covenant love for us.

Our Common Weakness: We lose courage when left to ourselves. Without godly leadership, we shrink back from the work God has given us.

Christ Connection: Jesus goes before us—the faithful Captain of our salvation. Where we would hold back, He stepped in.

Joshua 4:10–13 – What does it say about the heart of the eastern tribes that they crossed ahead of the others?

Joshua 22:1–3 – How does Joshua later affirm their faithfulness?

Hebrews 2:10–11 – How is Jesus described in relation to our salvation? What comfort does it give to know that He leads from the front?

Prayer: Jesus, my Greater Joshua, thank You for going before me and binding me to yourself. Strengthen my heart to follow you, and to serve those You've placed beside me. Amen.

FRIDAY

Colossians 3:14–15 "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

Reflection: The ties that bind us as God's people are not sentimental—they are sacrificial. Paul tells us that love is the bond that holds everything together. Not just any love, but the love of Christ, poured into our hearts by the Spirit. This love doesn't retreat when things are hard. It shows up. It lays down its life.

You have a sector. Your presence, your prayers, your perseverance—they matter. God has arranged the body so that each part needs the others. If you don't show up, others suffer. That's not guilt—it's grace. You've been given a part to play, and your Shepherd is the one who holds the line with you. Christ gave Himself to bind us to Himself—and to one another. **Our Common Weakness:** We underestimate the impact of our absence.

Christ Connection: Jesus bore the weight of covenant failure. He bound us together by his grace. Now His love shapes our life together, holding us in place and knitting us in grace.

Colossians 3:14–15 – What does Paul say binds the body of Christ together? What does that love look like in action?

1 John 3:16–18 – How does John define love? What kinds of actions does real love lead to in the life of a church?

Looking at your week – Where have you been tempted to isolate or disengage? What would it look like to lean back into the ties that bind?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you did not abandon us. You bore our burdens, you held the line, and you tied us to yourself with cords of covenant love. Help me now to love like You—showing up, giving sacrificially, and holding the line for others. Amen.

CATECHISM CORNER

WLC Q.63 – What are the special privileges of the visible church?

The visible church hath the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

Reflection:

We often view church membership as an obligation—but it is a gracious gift. To be part of the visible church is to live under His care, to be shaped by His Word, and to walk with others toward an eternal inheritance. The visible church is not just a gathering; it's the place where the gospel is proclaimed, where grace is offered, and where souls are shepherded toward glory.

How has God used the visible church—its people, preaching, and sacraments—to preserve and grow your faith?

Pray	/FR/	PRΔ	ISES
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Your elders are praying over the following matters and invite you to join us in seeking the Lord's help:

- 1) Pray that the Lord would raise up deacons from within our congregation. In this season, many practical needs are being met by your elders, which can stretch the time we have for our primary calling—prayer and the ministry of the Word. We are trusting the Lord to provide co-laborers who can share in the care and service of Christ's body."
- 2) Pray for the completion and fruitful use of a new gospel booklet.

 Pastor Adam has written a short booklet designed to help communicate the gospel clearly and personally. Pray that the final steps in this project would be completed soon, and that the booklet would become a useful tool for many in sharing Christ with loved ones. UPDATE: We are hopeful this will be completed in the next two weeks.

se this space to track record things you are praying for this week:							
							

This Week In Focus:

Sunday, June 29th – Prayer Meeting

6:00pm at the church

Thursday, July3rd – Conversations in Grace

7:00pm at the church

Friday, June 4 – First Friday Fires

5:45pm at the Lee Family Home

Bring a side dish, and dress for the weather.

Regular Rhythms of Grace

Weekly Gatherings

Youth Group - *Fridays*, 7:00pm – At the church

Prayer Meeting - *Sundays*, 6:00pm – At the church

Monthly or Biweekly Gatherings

First Friday Fires - 1st Friday, 5:45pm – Lee Family Home Bring a side dish, and dress appropriately for the weather.

Second Sunday Discussions - 2nd Sunday, 15 minutes after worship ends Family-style conversations on a rotating topic.

Women's Breakfast - 2nd Saturday, 9:30am – Cosgrove Family Home **(Cancelled for June)**

Men's Night - 3rd Friday, 7:00pm - Location varies

Praying for Prodigals - 3rd Sunday, 8:30am – Church building

Conversations in Grace - 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00pm – At the church Summer evening conversations in God's Word.

broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory