



free *grace*
presbyterian
church

January 11, 2026

Gifts and Graces
Free Grace Presbyterian Church

SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.

Luke 7:47

It was not a woman who sold the Lord for thirty pieces of silver. They were not women who forsook the Lord in the garden and fed. It was not a woman who denied Him three times in the high priest's house. But they were women who wailed and lamented when Jesus was led forth to be crucified. They were women who stood to the last by the cross. And they were women who were first to visit the grave "where the Lord lay." Great indeed is the power of the grace of God!

J.C. Ryle
19th-century English Anglican bishop

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

[F]or in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:26-29

She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.

Proverbs 31:20

A pastor visited a farmer to talk about his support for the church. The pastor asked, "If you had a hundred horses, would you give fifty of them to the Lord's work?" "I certainly would," the farmer replied. The pastor then asked, "If you had a hundred cows, would you give fifty to the church?" "Without hesitation," said the farmer. Then the pastor asked, "If you had two pigs, would you give one to the Lord?" The farmer stopped and said, "Now that's not fair, Pastor. You know I actually have two pigs!"

A Modern Parable

For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:12

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.

Psalm 147

People: 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.

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Psalm 145

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.

"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 - might - y can do,
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain;

18
 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.

Bless the LORD, O
 my soul, and all
 that is within me,
 bless his holy
 name!
 Psalm 103

"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 -

4
 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

8
 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

12
 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,

15
 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.

Blessed is he
 whose help is the
 God of Jacob,
 whose hope is in
 the LORD his God,
 who made heaven
 and earth, the sea,
 and all that is in
 them, who keeps
 faith forever;

Psalm 146

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God speaks truthfully to us, of our sin and unwillingness to seek God

God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

Psalm 53

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Isaiah 57

We cry out, contrite and lowly in spirit, asking for God's grace

"Abide with Me"

1. A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven -
2. Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst
3. I need thy pres - ence, ev - 'ry pass - ing
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing

3 tide; the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord with me a -
smile, and, though re - bel - lious, and per - verse mean -
hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's
bless: ills have no weight, tears lose their
eyes: shine through the gloom, and point me to the

6 bide. When oth - er help - ers fail, and com-forts
while, thou hast not left me, though I've oft left
pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can
ness. Where is thy sting, death? Where, grave, thy vic - to -
skies. Heav'n's morn-ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows
1,2,3,4

9 flee, help of the help - less, a - bide with me.
thee; on to the close, Lord, a - bide with me.
be? Through cloud and sun - shine, a - bide with me.
ry? I tri - umph still; a - bide with me.
flee: in life, in death, Lord, a - bide with me.

12 me; in life, in death, Lord, a - bide with me.

Our sin separates us from God. Yet, in Jesus Christ we have Emmanuel, God with us. His life and death paid for our sin freeing us. Our prayers of confession are our admitting that only he has freed us from our sin.

God assures us that we are justified by his grace alone through Christ alone

When the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3

We rest in God's words of assurance and rejoice in the depths of his love

"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

1. How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how
 2. Be - hold the man up - on a cross, my no
 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 to
 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 scoff - ers. 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
 1, 2. 3.

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.

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

Continue to the next page.

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

Luke 8:1-3

^[1] Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ^[2] and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ^[3] and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Gifts and Graces

That You May Be Certain

The church must rightly esteem women:

1) **Because Christ has graced them**

2) **Because Christ has gifted them**

3) **Because Christ honored them**

We rejoice in the community which God has made us a part

"We Are God's People"

Unison

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord, born of his
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord, for we have
3. We are the Bod - y of which the Lord is Head, called to o -
4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell- ing place, formed in great

Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our cor - ner - stone is
known it, the love of God out - poured; now let us learn how
bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he wills us be a
weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; we die a - lone, for

Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O let us live trans -
to re - turn the gift of love once giv'n: O let us share each
fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: O let us give our
on its own each mem - ber los - es fire: yet joined in one the

par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleas - es heav'n.
gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received

mercy.
1 Peter 2

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's supper as those who are gathered with him

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.

"Man of Sorrows! What a Name"

1. Man of Sorrows! what a name
2. Bear - ing shame and scoff - ing rude,
3. Guilt - ty, vile, and help - less we;
4. Lift - ed up was he to die,
5. When he comes, our glo - rious King,

for the Son of God who came
in my place con - demned he stood,
spot - less Lamb of God he was
"It is fin - ished!" God his cry;
all his ran - somed home to bring,

ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim: Hal - le -
sealed my par - don with his blood:
full a - tone - ment! Can it be?
now in - heav'n ex - al - ted high:
then a - new this - song we'll sing:

lu - - jah, what a Sav - - ior!

The Lord's Supper seals to the participant the great love of Christ... It assures the believing participant... that he was personally the object of that incomparable love.
Louis Berkhof

We profess our union together in Christ, and our obligations to the community God has placed us in.

Belgic Confession
Art 27

We believe and profess, one catholic or universal Church, which is a holy congregation, of true Christian believers, all expecting their salvation in Jesus Christ, being washed by his blood, sanctified and sealed by the Holy Ghost... Furthermore, this holy Church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or to certain persons, but is spread and dispersed over the whole world; and yet is joined and united with heart and will, by the power of faith, in one and the same spirit.

Westminster
Confession of Faith
26.1

All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

The Westminster Confession of Faith was written in England in the 1640s. It is both careful in its theology and deeply pastoral in its approach. As part of our doctrinal standards, it expresses what we believe Scripture teaches, framing it for the needs of the people of God. We use these words to join us with the church around the world and through the ages.

In prayer, we come to our Father, the source of all gifts and graces

*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 Will Feast in the House of Zion"

F F/D B♭ F Dm C B♭

We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our

Gm C F F/D B♭ F

hearts re - stored. He has done great things. we will say to - ge - ther

Dm C B♭ C F

We will feast and weep no more.

Verse

1. We will not be
2. In the dark of
3. Ev - ery vow we've

B♭ Dm B♭ C Dm

burned by the fire, He is the Lord our God we are not con -
night be - fore the dawn my soul be not a - fraid for the pro - mised
bro - ken and be - trayed You are the faith ful one and from the

On this mountain
the LORD of hosts
will make for all
peoples a feast of
rich food, a feast
of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of
marrow, of aged
wine well refined.

Isaiah 25

B♭ Dm B♭ C Dm C/E

sumed by the flood Up - held, pro- tect - ed, ga - thered up
mor - ning o how long O God of Ja - cob be my strength.
gar - den to the grave Bind us to - ge - ther bring - sha - lom

God declares that he will equip you with his gifts and graces to do his good will

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*

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.



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

Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
All songs are used by permission. All rights are reserved by the copyright holders. All are used according to CCLI license #11100390.

Jake Paris, guitar; Abigail Lee, violin; Grace Lee, viola; Connor Crawford, voice; Shannon VanDyke, voice

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Public Domain. Words: Joachim Neander, 1680. Music: traditional German melody.

"Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah" ©1982 Darwin Jordan Music. Words: Psalm 146, The Psalter, 1912. Music: Darwin Jordan, 1982.

"Abide with Me" © 2007 Justin Smith Music. Words: Henry Lyte, 1847 alt.; Music: Justin Smith, 2007.

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us" ©1995 Thankyou Music. Words and music: Stuart Townsend, 1995.

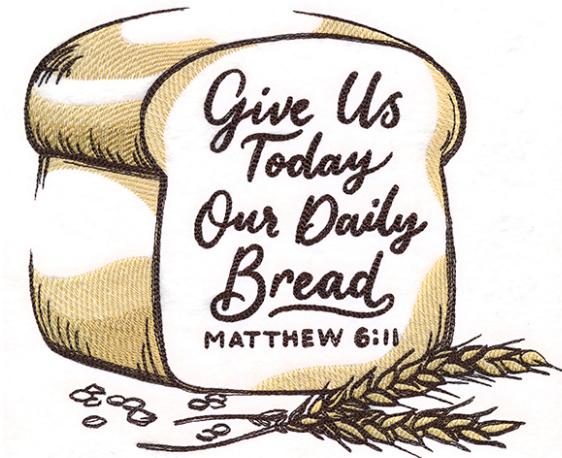
"We Are God's People" ©1976 Fred Bock Music Co. Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976; Music: Johannes Brahms, 1876, arr. Fred Bock, 1976.

"Man of Sorrows! What a Name" Public Domain. Words and Music: Philip Bliss, 1875.

"We Will Feast in the House of Zion" ©2015 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP) / Joshmooreownsthis Music (ASCAP). Words: based on Psalm 126, Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore, 2015. Music: Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore, 2015.

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.

SUNDAY

Scripture – Luke 2:36–38

Reflection: Meet Anna. We have already been introduced to her once before—quietly, briefly, almost in passing—yet Luke slows down to tell us her name, her family, her long widowhood, and her devotion to the Lord. Anna lived much of her life beyond the years when the world typically celebrates usefulness. Yet she was not idle, forgotten, or set aside. Her present work was prayer.

Day after day, Anna remained in the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer, waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. Her faithfulness was not loud or visible, but it was constant. And when Christ came, she was there—formed by years of prayer, ready to recognize the fulfillment of God’s promise. Anna reminds us that prayer is never “what’s left” when other work is done; it is holy labor that God delights to use. Her life teaches us that the church is strengthened not only by visible activity, but by faithful saints who quietly carry its hopes before the Lord.

Our Common Weakness: We often measure value by productivity, energy, or visibility. In seasons of aging, limitation, or waiting, we begin to believe that our faithfulness matters less or that our prayers are secondary.

Christ Connection: Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise Anna prayed for.

Lamentations 3:22–23: *According to this passage, what does the Lord provide day by day for those who wait on him?*

Psalm 141:2- *How does this psalm describe prayer? What does it suggest about the value of offering prayer in God’s estimation?*

Psalm 92:12–14 *What does this psalm say about the fruitfulness of the righteous in old age?*

Consider- *What do these passages together teach us about faithfulness, prayer, and God’s purpose for believers in every season of life?*

Embrace- *Where might Christ be inviting you to trust that your steady faithfulness—especially in prayer—is bearing fruit, even if it is unseen?*

Prayer Faithful Father, thank you for the prayers and perseverance of those who have walked with you for many years. Teach us to value faithful waiting, to trust that prayer is never wasted, and to believe that every season lived before your face is precious to you. Shape our lives by your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY

Scripture – Acts 16:14–15, 40

Reflection: Meet Lydia. Luke introduces her not by her family ties or social power, but by her trade and her responsiveness to God’s Word. She was a seller of purple goods—a woman of means—but Scripture is careful to show that her wealth was not her defining mark. The Lord opened her heart, and her life followed.

Lydia’s faith did not remain private or theoretical. What she possessed—her home, her resources, her social standing—became available for Christ’s work. She opened her household to Paul and his companions, and her home became one of the first gathering places of the church in Philippi. Lydia did not ask what was required of others; she offered what the Lord had placed in her hands. Her stewardship was not driven by obligation, but by a heart already opened by grace.

Lydia reminds us that Christ does not ask all his people to give the same things, but he does call each of us to place what we have at his disposal. When the heart is opened by grace, generosity follows—not as a burden, but as a joy.

Our Common Weakness: We are tempted to separate our faith from our possessions, treating Christ as Lord of our hearts but not always of our resources.

Christ Connection: Christ is the heart opener.

2 Corinthians 8:12 *What does this verse say about what makes an offering acceptable to God?*

Romans 12:13 *What are believers instructed to practice in this passage?*

Philippians 4:15–16 *How does Paul describe the role of material support in the advance of the gospel?*

Consider- We are not all “sellers of purple” nor does God expect us to be. But, the question God asked Moses still instructs us today, “What is in your hand?” (Exodus 4:2). Over and over again, he teaches us that it is enough (Judges 6:14–15, 1 Sam 17:40, 2 Kings 4:2, John 6:9, Mark 12:43–44).

Embrace- What has God already placed in your hand—time, resources, skills, relationships, or opportunity—that he is inviting you to trust him with? Rather than wishing for what you do not have, how might faithfulness today look like offering what is already yours, believing that Christ is pleased to receive it?

Prayer Gracious God, you open our hearts and supply all that we have. Forgive us for longing after what you have not given. Teach us to offer what is already in our hands with faith and gratitude. Receive our lives as worship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY

Scripture – Acts 9:36-42

Reflection: Meet Tabitha (Dorcas). Luke introduces her simply and honorably: “*a disciple... full of good works and acts of charity.*” We are not told about her position, influence, or wealth. Instead, we are shown the quiet evidence of a life shaped by love. Tabitha’s faith took form in ordinary acts of mercy—garments sewn, needs met, hearts and hands warmed. When Tabitha dies, the church gathers in grief. Widows stand beside Peter, holding the tunics and garments she had made for them. Her love had been practical, personal, and consistent—and its absence was deeply felt. Tabitha reminds us that faithfulness is often woven into unseen places, yet its fruit becomes unmistakable over time. Christ delights to use lives given in love, even when that love seems small or ordinary.

Our Common Weakness: We often underestimate the spiritual value of ordinary acts of care.

Christ Connection: Jesus himself loved in tangible ways—touching the unclean, feeding the hungry, and healing the sick.

Titus 3:8 According to this verse, what should believers be careful to maintain? Why does Scripture say this matters?

1 John 3:17-18 How do these verses describe two ways of “expressing” love? Which is acceptable to God?

Hebrews 6:10 What assurance does this verse give to those who serve others in love?

Consider- At her funeral (her first), the church gathered in grief, lamenting Tabitha’s loss. This was true because she had lived a lifetime of giving—her love had shaped real lives long before her death.

Embrace- A faithful ending like this is not created at the end of life, but lived out day by day. How might Christ be calling you today to practice the kind of quiet, loving faithfulness that shapes a life worth celebrating?

Prayer Faithful God, thank you for the lives shaped by quiet love and steady service. Teach us to live today in ways that bless others and honor you. Form in us a faith that gives itself in love over time. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Scripture – 1 Timothy 5:3-10

Reflection: In 1 Timothy, Paul gives instructions for honoring widows who are “*widows indeed*.” What is striking is not simply who receives care, but **why**. These women are recognized because their lives have been shaped by long faithfulness—hope set on God, perseverance in prayer, love practiced in the home, hospitality shown to strangers, and quiet devotion to good works.

These qualities do not appear suddenly at the end of life. They are the fruit of a lifetime lived before God. Paul is not creating a new standard for older women so much as naming what faithful womanhood looks like when it has been formed over time. What the church honors at the later stages of life is what it should be celebrating, encouraging, and cultivating from the beginning.

If this is what faithful womanhood looks like at its fullest, then the question before us is not simply how it is honored at the end, but how it is formed along the way. Scripture invites us to *reverse-engineer* faithfulness—to recognize that lives marked by prayer, hope, love, and good works in later years are shaped by the same practices embraced quietly and faithfully in earlier ones.

Our Common Weakness: We often celebrate the wrong qualities and think little of the qualities God honors.

Christ Connection: Jesus himself lived a life of steady obedience, hidden faithfulness, and loving service before his public glory was revealed.

Psalm 62:5-6 *According to this passage, where is the believer's hope to rest? Is this a sure hope?*

Luke 18:1 *What does Jesus say believers should not do in relation to prayer?*

Romans 12:10-13 *What attitudes and practices does Paul call believers to pursue toward one another?*

Embrace- *If these are the qualities Scripture honors at the later stages of life what daily practice(s) can you start to develop these traits more and more?*

Prayer Heavenly Father, teach us to value what you honor. Form in us lives shaped by hope, prayer, love, and good works. Help us to practice faithfulness in the ordinary days before us, by the grace given to each of us. In Christ Name, Amen.

THURSDAY

Scripture – *1 Corinthians 12:4–7; Ephesians 4:15–16*

Reflection: Scripture teaches that faithfulness looks different for each of us. God gives different gifts, callings, and responsibilities to his people—**to men and to women**—in order to display his wisdom through their diversity. Though our roles are different, they are equally good, and each is necessary for the health of Christ’s church.

Throughout this week we have seen faithfulness expressed in many forms: prayerful waiting, generous stewardship, quiet mercy, and lives shaped over time. Within this life together, women in Christ’s church teach, disciple and counsel younger women, pray, organize, lead works of mercy, extend hospitality, support the work of missions, strengthen families, welcome the vulnerable, and sustain the ordinary faithfulness of the body. Biblical complementarianism does not ask women to step back from ministry; it asks men to step up in responsibility so that ministry is ordered, safe, and life-giving. When men carry the weight of office and accountability, women are freed to serve joyfully without being pressured to carry what Scripture has not given them.

When men and women embrace their God-given roles with humility and trust, God is glorified and the church is strengthened. Together, we bear the image of God more clearly to the nations—not through uniformity, but through ordered, joyful obedience shaped by grace.

Our Common Weakness: We are prone to compare callings, misunderstand roles, or undervalue the kind of faithfulness God honors. In doing so, we either shrink back from responsibility or carry burdens God has not assigned.

Christ Connection: Christ always did the will of his Father, perfectly fulfilling his calling.

1 Corinthians 12:4–7 According to this passage, who gives the gifts? For what purpose are they given?

Ephesians 4:15–16 What happens to the body when each part is working as it should?

Consider- How does recognizing different but equally good roles help us see the wisdom of God in the life of the church?

Embrace- Where might Christ be calling you to live faithfully within your responsibilities today, trusting that your obedience helps the church reflect God’s image more clearly?

Prayer Gracious God, thank you for your wise design. Teach us to embrace our callings with humility, trust and joy. Help us to serve one another faithfully for your glory, In Jesus name—Amen.

FRIDAY- CONFESSION CORNER

WCF 26.1 – *All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory; and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.*

Reflection: The confession reminds us that union with Christ always creates communion with one another. Those who are united to Jesus Christ their Head share in his grace, and that shared grace necessarily flows outward in love. Gifts and graces are not given for private possession, but for the mutual good of the body.

This is exactly what we see in Luke 8, where faithful women supported Jesus and the twelve “*out of their means*.” They did not give what they did not have, nor were they asked to carry what was not theirs to bear. They offered what Christ had already entrusted to them, and their faithfulness sustained the ordinary ministry of the kingdom.

The confession names this same pattern. Being united to one another in love, believers have communion in each other's gifts and graces and are obliged—publicly and privately—to duties that build up the church inwardly and outwardly. What Christ gives to each is meant to be shared, according to season and ability, so that the whole body may be strengthened.

1 Peter 4:10 *According to this verse, how are believers to use the gifts they have received?*

Galatians 6:2 *What does Scripture call believers to do for one another?*

1 Corinthians 3:21–23 *What does this passage say belongs to the people of God? How does this inform your giving to those who have given their lives for your good?*

Prayer of Praise:

Gracious and generous God, we praise you for giving us yourself—uniting us to Christ by your Spirit and drawing us into fellowship with him and with one another. All that we have and all that we are comes from your hand; every grace and every gift is first received before it is ever offered back to you.

We thank you that you supply your people richly, giving gifts that differ and callings that serve the good of your church. You invite us to return what you have given in meaningful service, offered freely and joyfully for the strengthening of the body.

And we thank you for those you have given to us for our good—those who labor in prayer, in teaching, in mercy, and in faithful service. Receive our gratitude, our lives, and our praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom belongs all glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER & PRAISES

Your elders invite you to join us in seeking the Lord's help:

As we begin 2026 and consider the great work of loving and reaching our city, we ask for your prayers in two related areas: discipleship within the church and shepherding care beyond our walls.

The Turning Table (Discipleship)

This year, we are grateful to introduce a new discipleship opportunity called The Turning Table. Please pray that the Lord would bless this ministry as it takes root among us. Ask that God would use Scripture, prayer, and shared fellowship to form hearts that know the faith, love the faith, and live the faith with humility and joy. Pray for faithfulness, perseverance, and genuine growth in Christ among all who participate.

If you are interested in walking this pathway of discipleship alongside an elder, please let us know.

Shepherding Lewiston (Outreach & Care)

Since being called as pastor of Free Grace, it has been Pastor Adam's desire to extend shepherding care beyond the walls of the church and into the city of Lewiston. The aim of Shepherding Lewiston is not primarily to invite people to church, but to meet people where they are with listening ears, prayerful hearts, and genuine care.

These encounters will typically take place on Friday afternoons or Saturday mornings, whether through neighborhood walks or door-to-door conversations. They may take many forms. Some may ask to be left alone. Others may welcome prayer for a personal burden or a loved one in need. Still others may raise questions about deeper or eternal matters. In every case, the goal is the same: to reflect the gentle, faithful care of Christ—without pressure or pretense.

Please pray for wisdom, compassion, and patience as time is spent each week listening, praying, and caring for real needs throughout our city.

As we plan... we humbly remember God's word:

Proverbs 16:1

The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

This Week In Focus:

Monday, January 12th

Ladies Discipleship Meeting - 6:00-8:00pm — At the church (See Shannon FMI)

Tuesday, January 13th

Free Grace English@ The Root Cellar - 6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday, January 14th

Conversations in Grace - 7:00pm — At the church (bring your worship folder)

Friday, January 16th

Youth Group - 7:00pm — At the church

Sunday, January 18th

Praying for Prodigals - 8:30am in the pastor's office

February 27-28th

Ladies Retreat - At the Church- See Linda Morris for Details

Regular Rhythms of Grace

Weekly Gatherings

Ladies Discipleship Meeting - Mondays 6:00-8:00pm — At the church. See Shannon for details on childcare.

Free Grace English @ the Root Cellar - Tuesdays 6:30- 7:30pm

Conversations in Grace - Wednesday 7:00pm — At the church (conversation about the weekly devotional).

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

Monthly or Biweekly Gatherings

First Friday Fellowship - Game night at the VanDykes @ 5:45pm

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

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

If you do not know the address of any event, or the contact information for any event, please contact either Pastor Adam at adam.lee@freegrace.us or Linda at the email address below.

If you would like to be added to our church-family email where you can keep in touch through the week, or if you would like to be added to the church directory, please email Linda at linda.morris@freegrace.us

If you are a member of Free Grace and are not using the church directory app, you are missing out on a very useful tool. Please reach out to Linda to see how to download it to your phone.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory