



**April 12, 2026**

# Controlled by Love

*Free Grace Presbyterian Church*

## SOME THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Isaac Watts

17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century English Congregational minister,

For to me to live  
is Christ, and to die  
is gain.

**Philippians 1:21**

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. And  
you, who once were alienated and  
hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has  
now reconciled in his body of flesh by  
his death, in order to present you  
holy and blameless and above  
reproach before him.

**Colossians 1:19-23**

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. Beloved, if God so  
loved us, we also ought to love  
one another.

**1 John 4:9-11**

I have been crucified  
with Christ. It is no longer I  
who live, but Christ who lives  
in me. And the life I now live in  
the flesh I live by faith in the  
Son of God, who loved me  
and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 2:20**

Christian existence means that by  
faith one lives in the midst of the  
old creation in terms of the new  
creation that God has brought  
about through Jesus.

C. K. Barrett

British biblical scholar and Methodist minister

As all mankind are, in the sight of God, lost sinners,  
we hold that Christ is their only righteousness,  
since, by his obedience, he has wiped off our  
transgressions, by his sacrifice appeased the divine  
anger, by his blood washed away our stains, by his  
cross borne our curse, and by his death made  
satisfaction for us. We maintain that in this way man  
is reconciled in Christ to God the Father, by no  
merit of his own, by no value of works, but by  
gratuitous mercy.

John Calvin

16<sup>th</sup> century French-Swiss pastor and theologian

# GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven.

Hebrews 12 (NLT)

**People:** We have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things.

Leader: You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness.

**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!

Psalms 95

**We sing to the Lord, coming to God himself through Jesus**

"Thine Be the Glory"

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he  
3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with -

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment  
greet us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness,  
out thee: aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes,  
hymns of tri - umph sing, for her Lord now liv - eth,  
thro' thy death - less love: bring us safe thro' Jor - dan

**REFRAIN**  
where thy bod - y lay,  
death hath lost its sting. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;  
to thy home a - bove.

end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

The call to worship is a jolt back to reality. It is a reminder that in the midst of the tragic reality of our chaotic and broken world, there is a glorious and gracious God. It confronts us with the fact that God is the central truth of reality.

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter, his the throne. Al - le -  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the Lord of lords we own; Al - le -

5  
 lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone. Hark! The  
 lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heav'n thy throne. Al - le -

9  
 songs of peace-ful Zi - on thun-der like a might - y flood; Je - sus  
 lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our food and stay! Al - le -

13  
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood. Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Here the sin - ful flee to thee from day to day. Al - le -

17  
 lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now. Al - le -  
 lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - er, his the throne. Al - le -

21  
 lu - ia! He is near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques-tions how.  
 lu - ia! His the tri - umph, his the vic - t'ry, his a - lone.

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# GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

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## **God cries out to us of our separation from him, calling us to repent of our sin**

I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me... Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God... With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them.

Hosea 5

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear... But the Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins, declares the Lord.

Isaiah 59

## **We confess our sin**

Lord, we have denied you by refusing to know you.  
We have betrayed you by keeping our distance.  
We have mocked you by pretending we are not yours.  
Gracious God, we are lost and separated from you;  
let your forgiveness find us.  
Welcome us into your strong forgiving arms,  
and let us feel reconciled again.

The only comfort  
for our souls is  
Christ's life and  
death on the cross.  
Nothing else can  
take away our fears  
and reconcile us to  
God because  
nothing else can  
pay the price of  
our sin.

## **God proclaims his grace: that he has reconciled us to himself through Christ**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself... 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. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

2 Corinthians 5

Colossians 1

## We respond to his pardoning voice and rise up with joy to sing his glory

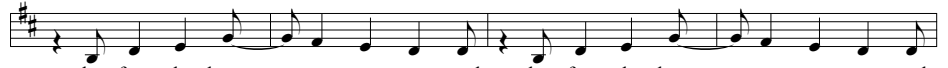
"Arise, My Soul, Arise"



1. A - rise, my soul, a - rise, shake off your guilt - y fears;  
 2. He ev - er lives a - bove, for me to in - ter - cede,  
 3. Five bleed - ing wounds he bears, re - ceived on Cal - va - ry;  
 4. My God is re - con - ciled; his pard - 'ning voice I hear;



the bleed - ing sac - ri - fice on my be - half ap - pears:  
 his all - re - deem - ing love, his prec - ious blood to plead;  
 they pour ef - fec - tual prayers, they strong - ly plead for me.  
 he owns me for his child; I can no long - er fear;



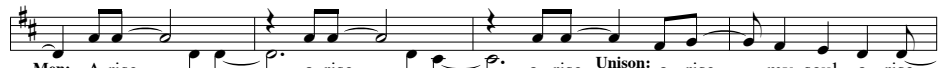
be - fore the throne my sure - ty stands, be - fore the throne my sure - ty stands,  
 his blood a - toned for ev - 'ry race, his blood a - toned for ev - 'ry race,  
 "For - give him, O for - give," they cry, "for - give him, O for - give," they cry,  
 with con - fi - dence I now draw nigh, with con - fi - dence I now draw nigh,



my name is writ - ten on his hands.  
 and sprin - kles now the throne of grace.  
 "don't let that ran - somed sin - ner die!"  
 and "Fa - ther, Ab - ba, Fa - ther!" cry.



Men: A-rise, a-rise, a-rise, Unison: a-rise, my soul, a-rise.  
 Women: a-rise, a-rise



Men: A-rise, a-rise, a-rise, Unison: a-rise, my soul, a-rise,  
 Women: a-rise, a-rise



shake off your guilt - y fears and rise!

### surety | 'Shōōritē |

one who has become legally liable for the debt, default, or failure in duty of another

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## GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

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<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5;11-21

In the Scriptures...  
God daily comes  
to his people, not  
from afar but  
nearby. In it he  
reveals himself,  
from day to day, to  
believers in the  
fullness of his truth  
and grace.  
Through it he  
works his miracles  
of compassion and  
faithfulness.  
Herman Bavinck

## **Controlled by Love**

What does it look like to be controlled by the love of Christ?

1) Living for him not for ourselves (**13-15**)

2) Not regarding others according to the flesh (**16-17**)

3) Proclaiming reconciliation (**18-21**)

Preaching exists,  
not for the  
propagating of  
views, opinions  
and ideals, but for  
the proclamation  
of the mighty acts  
of God.  
James Stewart

**We sing out to be controlled by the love of Christ, for him to be all we see and the reason for all we do**

“Be Thou My Vision”

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 4. High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright hea - ven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,  
 thou my great Fa - ther and I thy true son;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wa - king or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.  
 High King of hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all.

Based on an Irish poem believed to have been written between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, through this hymn we pray that God would be the first thing we seek after and that our lives would be continually refocused on him.

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## GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

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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 live in the love of Christ displayed on the cross, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper**

*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.*

Romans 5:1–11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Controlled by the love of Christ, we live for him, giving our tithes, offerings, and lives to him**

"All to Jesus I Surrender"

C F C G<sup>7</sup> Em G<sup>7</sup> C F C G<sup>7</sup> Em C

1. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;  
 2. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, hum - bly at his feet I bow,  
 3. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, make me, Sav - ior, whol - ly thine;  
 4. All to Je - sus I sur - ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;

F C G<sup>7</sup> Em G<sup>7</sup> C F C G<sup>7</sup> Em C

may I ev - er love and trust him, in his pres - ence dai - ly live.  
 world - ly plea - sures all for - sak - en, take me, Je - sus, take me now.  
 may thy Ho - ly Spir - it fill me, may I know thy pow'r di - vine.  
 fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless - ing fall on me.

REFRAIN  
 C F C G G G<sup>7</sup> C

I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.  
 I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all, I sur - ren - der all.

F C F C/G G<sup>7</sup> C 7

All to thee, my bless - ed Sav - ior, I sur - ren - der all.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."  
 Matthew 16

**We come to God in prayer, asking that we would indeed be controlled by the love of Christ in every aspect of our lives**

# GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

## We sing out, praising God for his love displayed in Christ

“And Can It Be”

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Romans 5

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - trest in the Sav - ior's blood? Died  
 2. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove, so free, so in - fin - ite his grace! Hum -  
 3. Long my im - pris - oned spi - rit lay, fast bound in sin and na - ture's night; thine  
 4. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je - sus, and all in him, is mine! A -

he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pur - sued?  
 bled him - self, so great his love, and bled for A - dam's help - less race.  
 eye dif - fused a quick - 'ning ray; I woke, the dun - geon flamed with light.  
 live in him, my liv - ing Head, and clothed in right - eous - ness di - vine.

A - ma - zing love! How can it be, that thou, my God, should die  
 'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and free, for, O my God, it found  
 My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and fol -  
 Bold I ap - proach the e - ter - nal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ,

for me? A - ma - zing love! How can it be, that thou, my God, should die for me? A -  
 out me.  
 - loved thee.  
 my own.

ma - zing love! How can it be, that thou, my God should die for me?

## God declares the promise of his love in Christ

Jeremiah 31

Elder: He has loved you with an everlasting love; therefore he will continue his faithfulness to you... Now may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3

**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*

### **This Week In Focus:**

#### **Today**

**Second Sunday Discussion** – *Shortly after the service.*

#### **Monday, April 13th**

**Ladies Discipleship Meeting** – 6:00-8:00pm at the church (See Shannon for details)

#### **Friday, April 17th**

**Youth Group** – 7:00pm at the church

### **Regular Rhythms of Grace**

#### **Weekly Gatherings**

**Ladies Discipleship Meeting** – Mondays 6:00-8:00pm at the church (See Shannon for details.)

**Youth Group** – Fridays 7:00-9:00pm at the church

#### **Monthly or Biweekly Gatherings**

**First Friday Fellowship** – 5:45pm – Game Night at the VanDykes or Bonfire at the Lees (Location for May TBD)

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

**Praying for Prodigals** – 3rd Sunday, 8:30am in the pastor's office

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## 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



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Meredith Stephens, *voice*; Andrew Schank, *bass*; Beth Almquist, *piano*

"Thine Be the Glory" Public Domain. Words: Edmond Budry, 1884. Translated: R. Birch Hoyle, 1923.  
Music: George Frideric Handel, 1747.

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" music ©2013 The Hymn Collective. Words: William C. Dix, 1867. Music: Jeff Koonce, 2013.

"Arise, My Soul, Arise" ©1996 Kevin Twit Music. Words: Charles Wesley, 1742, alt. 1961, mod.  
Music: Kevin Twit, 1996.

"Be Thou My Vision" Public Domain. Ancient Irish hymn.

"All to Jesus I Surrender" Public Domain. Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, 1896, alt. 1990. Music: Winfield S. Weeden, 1896.

"And Can It Be" ©2010 Jacob Paris. Words: Charles Wesley, 1738. Music: Jake Paris, 2010.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, yet so often I struggle to love him enough to give him more than my excess, my not-really-wanted, and my won't-miss-it.

broken people  
bound together in Christ  
for God's glory