

The Order for the Worship of God
The Lord's Day
October 8, 2017
10:15 a.m.

Reflection

Grace is God's merciful provision in Jesus Christ for humanity which is so corrupt that they cannot change their natures, so hostile to God that they cannot turn to Him, so blind that they cannot see Him, so deaf that they cannot hear Him, and so dead that He Himself must open their graves and lift them into resurrection. — A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*

Grace is not a "thing." It is not a substance that can be measured or a commodity to be distributed. It is "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 13:14). In essence, grace is Jesus Himself. — Sinclair Ferguson, *By Grace Alone*

And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

— John 1:16-17

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

— 2 Timothy 1:9

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

— Ephesians 2:8-9

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

The Welcome and Announcements — Pastor David Harding

The Peace — We greet each other with the blessing of Christ's peace

The Call to Worship God — from Hebrews 4

Leader: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

All: **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Arise, My Soul, Arise

©1996 Kevin Twit Music. Words: Charles Wesley. 1742

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;
Before the throne my Surety stands,
Before the throne my Surety stands,
My name is written on His hands.

Chorus:

Arise, (arise), arise, (arise), arise
Arise my soul, arise.

Arise, (arise), arise, (arise), arise
Arise my soul, arise.

Shake off your guilty fears and rise

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;
His blood atoned for every race,
His blood atoned for every race,
And sprinkles now the throne of grace. (Chorus)

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear
With confidence I now draw nigh,
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry. (Chorus)

The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation (concluded with the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE CONFESS TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Heidelberg Catechism Q. 60

Leader: Christian, how are you right with God?

All: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.

Come Ye Sinners

Words: Joseph Hart; Music: Matthew Smith

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus, ready, stands to save you, full of pity, joined with power.
He is able, He is able; He is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money, come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and broken by the fall;
If you tarry 'til you're better, you will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous; sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him.
This He gives you, this He gives you, 'tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended; pleads the merit of His blood.
Venture on Him; venture wholly, let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus can do helpless sinners good.

WE REPENT OF OUR SIN AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

As we come before the holy God, our sinful hearts are exposed. Therefore, we bring our sins to God, in order to taste afresh the sweetness of His grace in Jesus.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).

The Prayer of Confession

Dear Father, we thank you are a God of great grace and mercy to undeserving sinners who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus Christ. We come to you this morning, admitting that we are deeply broken people. Even though we know you are the only One who can satisfy our souls, we still cling to the false saviors of human approval, success in accomplishments, and security in possessions. Yet, these God-replacements never deliver what they promise. Please forgive our rebellion and idolatry, not because we deserve it, but because of your great mercy in the life and death of Jesus. You rejected Him, the Innocent One, so that we, the guilty ones, could be loved and acceptance by you. Make us believe and live upon this glorious gospel. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

We again hear God's Word, reminding us that His amazing grace is freely given to all who turn from sin and rest in Jesus Christ.

Words of Assurance and Hope in the Gospel — Hebrews 9:11-12

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

Robert Lowry, 1876

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus

O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone — nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done — nothing but the blood of Jesus. (*Chorus*)

This is all my hope and peace — nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness — nothing but the blood of Jesus. (*Chorus*)

Parents with children up to age 4 are welcome to take them to the nursery for the remainder of the service. This is optional, and children are welcome to remain with their parents during the sermon.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK IN HIS WORD

The Sermon
“*Sola Gratia* (Grace Alone)”
Ephesians 2:1-10
(pg. 976 in the pew Bible)
Dr. David Harding

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

SERMON NOTES

The Big Idea: In order to humble us in worship before the God of all grace, Paul sets the saving grace of God against the pitch-black background of our helpless, hopeless sinful condition. Our lives will be transformed by the amazing grace of God only when, and to the degree which, we are able to see our true condition, which makes God’s grace so necessary. Paul’s declaration in Ephesians 2 was one of the great rallying cries of Protestant Reformers of the 16th century, “*Sola Gratia!*” We are saved by ***Grace Alone!***

I. Our Human Condition which Makes Grace Necessary (1-3)

Dead in sin (1)

Dominated by the world, the flesh and the devil (2-3)

Doomed under the wrath of God(3)

II. God's Response which Makes Grace Amazing (4-10)

He made us alive with Christ (4-5)

He raised us up and seated us with Christ (6)

III. God's Motivation which Melts Our Pride and Fuels Our Obedience

Rich in Mercy (4)

Greatness of Love (4)

Richness of Grace in Kindness (7, 8)

Questions for personal reflection and family/Community Group discussion

- 1) What is at least one "take-away" God gave you from the preaching of His Word?
- 2) Paul says every human being, apart from God's grace in Jesus, is in a state of sin. According to this passage, what does that mean?
- 3) What are some of the effects of sin in our lives? See Romans 3:9-20
- 4) How does the backdrop of Ephesians 2:1-3 make God's response of grace in 2:4-10 shine more brightly?
- 5) According to vv4-10, and also 1:3-14, what does Paul say is God's motivation in saving us? What does this do to our pride? How does resting in the security of God's grace motivate a life of "good works?"
- 6) Read Luke 15. How does the parable of the prodigal son illustrate the principle of *sola gratia* (grace alone)?
- 7) What response does God's grace require of you/us every moment of every day?

WE FEAST ON CHRIST BY FAITH IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The elders of this church welcome to the Lord's Table all those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." *John 6:35*

The Words of Institution

All: Merciful Lord, we come here to your table trusting not in our goodness but in your immeasurable grace. Even though we are not worthy to eat the crumbs from under your table, you are always rich in mercy. Gracious Lord, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, enable us by faith to feast on the body and blood of Jesus Christ, so that we may experience more fully the joy of our union with him, and forever dwell in him, and he in us. Worthy are you, Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, to receive praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

The Giving and Receiving of the Bread and the Cup

(Please wait until all have been served, so we may eat together)

Please note the cup trays contain wine on the inner rings and grape juice on the outer ring.

Silent Prayers for Communing with God through Jesus Christ

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared to admit, but through your life, death and resurrection, I am more loved and accepted by God than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and rest in you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and finisher of my faith. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL WITH SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

Worshiping God through Our Financial Giving — We respond to God's lavish grace in Jesus Christ by giving our money joyfully and sacrificially for the spread of the gospel in our city and around the world.

Amazing Grace

John Newton, 1779

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead us home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

The Benediction — Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Dismissal — Having been nourished and renewed by the gospel of God's grace in Jesus Christ, let us go from here in the power of that grace to live as his faithful servants.

All: Thanks Be to God!

Please remain for refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Our Guests!

We are glad you are with us this morning! Please complete the visitor card found on the back of the pew. And please join us for refreshments after the service in the fellowship hall. If you have questions about the Christian gospel, the ministries of this church, or how you can have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, please speak with the pastor or one of the elders after the service. It would be a privilege to talk with you.

SPPC 15th Anniversary Celebration, Today

Today, we celebrate God's faithfulness to us as a church family for these last 15 years. Please join us for a luncheon following the service in the fellowship hall.

Men's Fall Retreat, October 20-21

SPPC is hosting a men's retreat on Friday evening and Saturday morning, October 20-21. Former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Major Harding will be speaking on "Forgiveness in a Man's Life." A BBQ dinner on Friday will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall, followed by a talk and discussion. Saturday's sessions begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30. We will conclude at noon. **Sign-up on the sheet on the kitchen counter in the fellowship hall, or register on the church's website, www.stpetepca.org/nurture/mens-ministry, by October 16.**

Missionary of the Month

During October we are praying for Lindsey Harding, serving as an intern with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Auburn University. Lindsey is engaged in evangelism and discipleship with undergraduate women. Pray that God will keep Lindsey's heart treasuring Christ and walking in His truth, and that He would bear much fruit for His glory through her ministry.

Community Groups

God made us for relationships! So, be part of an SPPC Community Group this fall. Sign-up at the Community Group Table in the fellowship hall. For more information, contact David Massey at 727-644-8679.

Women's Bible Study

Join us for our Fall Women's Bible Study, each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the church. All women are welcome – even if you are only able to attend for a few weeks. We are studying the book of Hebrews, using a study guide by Nancy Guthrie, *Hoping for Something Better*. For more details please contact Carolyn Boddie at pbfam41@tampabay.rr.com.

Men's Bible Study

All SPPC men are encouraged to be part of the Men's Friday morning Bible study at 7:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Coffee is served! We are studying Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Operation Christmas Child Volunteer Needed

The season of Operation Christmas Child has begun! We will be collecting gifts boxes until November 13 for children from all over the world. Any person(s) interested in helping to coordinate this very worthy project, please contact Phil or Carolyn Boddie as soon as possible at pbfam41@tampabay.rr.com or (727) 422-6932.

Hospitality Team Meeting

The Hospitality Team invites you to meet with us on Sunday, Oct 22 in the High School Classroom at 11:45. Bring your coffee and join us to learn more about our ministry.

THIS WEEK AT SPPC

Sunday (October 8)

- 8:30 a.m.** Congregational Prayer (meet in adult classroom off fellowship hall)
- 9:00 a.m.** Bible Classes for all ages
- 10:15 a.m.** Corporate Worship
- 11:30 a.m.** 15th Anniversary Celebration in Fellowship Hall

Monday (Office closed)

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m.** Women's Bible Study — meets in high school classroom
- 7:30 p.m.** The James Club — a gospel-centered ministry for those struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. Meets in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m.** Lane Community Group — Seminole/Largo (352) 408-1452
- 7:00 p.m.** Tanner Community Group — Northeast St. Pete (727) 482-4855
- 7:00 p.m.** Burkham Community Group — North St. Pete/Gandy (727) 579-4220

Friday

- 7:00 a.m.** Men's Bible Study — meets in fellowship hall.

One Year Community Bible Reading Calendar

Monday, Oct 9	Isaiah 57-59	2 Thessalonians 3
Tuesday, Oct 10	Isaiah 60-62	1 Timothy 1
Wednesday, Oct 11	Isaiah 63-65	1 Timothy 2
Thursday, Oct 12	Isaiah 66; Jeremiah 1-2	1 Timothy 3
Friday, Oct 13	Jeremiah 3-5	1 Timothy 4
Saturday, Oct 14	Psalms 118-119:1-72	

Contact Information

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Elders (The Session)	Phil Boddie	727-392-2913
	Steve Curtiss	727-644-3839
	David Harding	727-434-9048
Deacons (The Diaconate)	Bob Burkham	727-579-4220
	Mike Eldridge	727-515-9560
	Chad Martin	727-744-8704
	Dave Shadle	610-217-8718
	Loyd Tomlinson	727-215-7226
Administrative Assistant	Michele Hurm	727-329-6346
Children and Youth	Derik Jenkins	727-452-8715
Christian Education	Steve Curtiss	727-644-3839
Community Groups	David Massey	727-644-8679
Homeless Outreach	Kyle Krueger	727-364-7355
Hospitality	Barbara Burkham	727-579-4220
Men's Ministry	David Harding	727-434-9048
Mercy Ministry	Loyd Tomlinson	727-823-1774
Missions	Phil and Carolyn Boddie	727-392-2913
Prayer Chain	Andy Anderson	901-268-5617
Ushers/Greeters	Matt Massingill	727-204-6818
Women's Ministry	Cheryl Massey	727-527-1270

SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES & AGENCIES

Esaie and Natacha Etienne	Mission to the World	Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Susan Newkirk	Mission to the World	Cape Town, S. Africa
David and Erin Pervis	Mission to the World	Kiev, Ukraine
Bill and Pam Schweitzer	Mission to the World	Gateshead, England
Marcelo and Claudia Carvalho	WEC Brazil	Amazon, Brazil
Andrew and Meghan Newman	Reformed University Fellowship	USF, Tampa
Lindsey Harding	Reformed University Fellowship	Auburn University
K-Life		St. Petersburg
New Hearts Outreach		Tampa
New Life Solutions (Pregnancy Center)		St. Petersburg