



4TH SUNDAY IN EASTER — MAY 3, 2020

REFLECTIONS

We live by revelation, as Christians, as artists, which means we must be careful never to get set into rigid molds. The minute we begin to think we know all the answers, we forget the questions, and we become smug like the Pharisee who listed all his considerable virtues, and thanked God that he was not like other men. Unamuno might be describing the artist as well as the Christian as he writes, “Those who believe they believe in God, but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself.”

MADELEINE L'ENGLE / WALKING ON WATER: REFLECTIONS ON FAITH AND ART

The voice of shame will tell us that we are our sin—or that we are the sins of others. We must reorient our self-perception around the identity given to us by Jesus. We must counter the voice of shame with the gospel reminder that we're whole, we're new, we're loved, we're forgiven, and we're adopted. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:38–39).

DAN DEWITT / THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GUILT AND SHAME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life and Light of the World, is not far,
but close to each one of us.
All In him we live and move and have our being.
Leader Because he lives, the blind receive their sight and the lame walk;
All the sick are healed and the outcast feast at his table;
Leader the deaf hear and the dead are raised up;
All the poor have good news preached to them.
Leader Christ is risen!
All He is risen indeed. Alleluia! — based on Acts 17:28; Matthew 11:4

SONG OF PRAISE

COME, CHRISTIANS JOIN TO SING / C. BATEMAN

1. Come, Christians, join to sing; Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen! Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice; Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!	3. Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen! Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen! On heaven's blissful shore, His goodness we'll adore, Singing forevermore, Alleluia! Amen!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen! Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen! He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend; His love shall never end. Alleluia! Amen!	

EASTER PRAYER OF ADORATION

Leader Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we join all heaven and earth in declaring your praise.
We give thanks to you, for you are good and your love endures forever.
We remember your mighty deeds and your saving acts of the past.
Though we turn away from you in doubt and complain more than give thanks,
you look upon our distress when we cry out to you
and you remember your promises according to the abundance of your love.
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the Lord! — based on Psalm 106

SONGS OF PRAISE

MERCY / R. DELMORE

Mercy shines like the sun in the morning
Chasing the dark into blue skies
Giving me hope for the day
A new song of praise

And mercy, it falls like the rain upon me
Taking away all my sorrows
Covering all of my shame
And now I can sing
Hallelujah, I'm washed in the blood of the Lamb
Hallelujah, I'm forgiven. Yes, I'm forgiven

LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS / F. ORTEGA

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; to His peace you were called in one body (2x)
So be thankful, yes, be thankful
Singing songs and hymns and spiritual songs, filled with thankfulness to God (2x)
Everything you do in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord
Everything you do in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord
Let the word of Christ richly dwell in you, as you counsel and teach one another (2x)
With all wisdom, with all wisdom
Singing songs and hymns and spiritual songs, filled with thankfulness to God (2x)
Everything you do in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord
Everything you do in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord
Giving thanks through Christ to God the Father

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together Jesus Christ, you have risen!
By the love of the Father and power of the Holy Spirit, we have risen to new life with you.
Yet, we confess the ways we remain in our tombs of sin and death.
When we stand before your empty tomb, we don't always believe the joy of your resurrection.
You welcome our questions, but we let our doubts overwhelm us with cynicism and fear.
Full of doubt, we look for another way, truth and life. Forgive us and renew us with your love.
Open our ears to your pardoning voice, overcome our shame and let us hear you call us your beloved.
In your strong and wonderful name we pray. **Amen.** — based on Matthew 11:3; John 14:1

SONG OF ASSURANCE

OPEN MY LIPS / WORDS FROM PSALM 51, MUSIC BY F. ORTEGA

Open my lips
I will sing Your praise forever
Open my lips, O Lord
I will sing Your praise forever

Open my lips
I will sing Your praise forever

A broken spirit and a contrite heart
These you will not despise

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Though we are unworthy to untie the straps of his sandals, Jesus Christ is faithful to lift up all who are humble. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Believe and be at peace! —John 1:27; 29
All Thanks be to God!
Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
All And also with you.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Take a moment during announcements and “pass the peace” by leaving a comment, texting, calling or emailing one another. Send us a selfie!

** Check our website for the latest updates and ways to invest in the life of our church and city.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

If you're accustomed to giving during worship on Sunday mornings, please consider giving online and setting up a recurring or one-time gift through the Subsplash platform. (Subsplash has one of the lowest transaction fees and reduces our fees the more people give online.) To give online, visit <https://gracepasadena.org/give>. Questions? Email info@gracepasadena.org.

THE 1ST LESSON — JOHN 1:29-34

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." [ESV]

THE 2ND LESSON — MATTHEW 11:2-6; 11

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. [ESV]

THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

Easter Sermon Series: "Meeting Jesus"
Sermon Title: "Behold the Lamb"

PRAYERS & CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Scriptures declare that God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — is our only hope (Psalm 33:22) and sure foundation (Isaiah 28:16) because he is love (1 John 4:8). As we offer our prayers, let us remember who our God is by confessing our faith. Let us pray with boldness and hope.

Leader In silence, take a few moments to consider your fears, anxieties, desires, hopes and dreams for yourself, neighbors, city and world. As they surface, offer them to God, for he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

Silence

Remembering God's great love, let us confess our faith with confidence.
Brothers and sisters, in whom do you believe?

Together I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

A COMMUNION PRAYER

Together Jesus Christ, you promise to meet us and feed us whenever we gather and eat from your table. Since we cannot break bread with you and one another, we ask that you would renew your presence in us and strengthen us spiritually. We long to feast with you and our church family. We long to welcome others into your presence and to experience your gracious hospitality together. In your mercy, make it so quickly. In your name, we pray. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONGS

GRACE & PEACE / F. ORTEGA

Grace and peace
Grace and peace
Grace and peace to you
From God our Father

And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ

GRACE TO YOU & PEACE / F. ORTEGA

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
Grace to you and peace from God our Father

And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith. Be rooted and established in love. May you have the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. — *from Eph. 3:17-21*

All **Amen! Alleluia!**

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Yes, it's still Easter! As Phillip Reinders explains in *Seeking God's Face*, "The fullness of the resurrection requires more than a day to unpack. The Easter season is a fifty-day celebration that ends on Pentecost Sunday (the Greek word *pentecoste* means "fiftieth"). The Easter season is a time to let the implications of the resurrection sink in deeper, inviting us to realign our worldview and conform our living to the reality that we have been raised with Christ to new life. Easter is full of joy and the laughter of love—the grave is empty, love has won, Christ is risen! Give yourself over to the experience of that joy—take in the absolute wonder of God's purposeful plan of salvation." Let's continue to celebrate!

GIVING & BUDGET

	IAN-MAR	APR 2020*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$102,998	\$38,559
BUDGETED GIVING	108,000	36,000
DIFFERENCE	-5,002	+2,559

*as of 4/28/2020; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

In need of prayer?

*Please reach out to the pastors, staff and leaders of the church. We are here for you.
Email help@gracepasadena.org*

Join us on Blue Jeans for a virtual Social Hour.

Meeting ID: 443 899 489

Listen for the passcode, or get in touch with anyone on staff.