



6TH SUNDAY IN EASTER — MAY 17, 2020

REFLECTIONS

"There are two kinds of beauty. There is a beauty which God gives at birth, and which withers as a flower. And there is a beauty which God grants when by His grace men are born again. That kind of beauty never vanishes but blooms eternally."

ABRAHAM KUYPER

"One must not only die daily, but every day we must be born again."

DOROTHY L. SAYERS

"No one will make a good end to the life into which he is born unless he is born again before [the end]."

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Beloved and chosen of God, open your hearts and ears!
Thus says the Lord who formed you in the womb: "Fear not!"

**All He will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;**

Leader He will pour his Spirit on us.

All He will pour his Spirit on our children and children's children.

Leader By water and the Spirit, we receive the resurrection life of Jesus Christ.

All By water and the Spirit, we are born anew!

— based on Isaiah 44:1-3; John 3:5

SONG OF PRAISE

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS YE MIGHTY GATES / MUSIC BY GEORGE WEISSEL

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

2. A Helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, kindness in distress.

3. O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes,
To whom this King in triumph comes.

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart.
The Word made flesh, descends to dwell
With joy for you who His mercies tell.

5. So come, my Lord, and enter in,
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
Until Thy glorious victories won.

EASTER PRAYER OF ADORATION

Leader O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
we praise you for you have searched us and known us!
You know when we sit down and when we rise up;
you discern our thoughts from afar.
You search out our path and our lying down
and are acquainted with all our ways.
Where shall we go from your Spirit?
Or where shall we flee from your presence?
For you formed our inmost being;
you knitted us together in our mothers' wombs.
We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; our souls know it very well.
Lead us in the way everlasting and fill our lips with your praise. **Amen.**

— based on Psalm 139

SONGS OF PRAISE

HOLY SPIRIT LIGHT DIVINE / *ROOTS WORSHIP COLLECTIVE*

1. Holy Spirit, light divine; shine upon this heart of mine
Chase the shades of night away, turn my darkness into day
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

CHORUS

*O Holy Spirit, presence of God
Giver of comfort, power and love
I give You my heart, light divine*

2. Holy Spirit, power divine; cleanse this guilty heart of mine
Long has sin without control, held dominion o'er my soul
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

3. Holy Spirit, all divine; dwell within this heart of mine
Cast down every idol throne, reign supreme and reign alone
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

OH GREAT IS OUR GOD / *THE WORSHIP TEAM*

1. O, great is our God, so we should worship greatly!
No song is too loud, no orchestra too stately
To hail the majesty of our King
So lift your voices loud as we sing
2. O, great is our God, so let our songs be endless!
So awesome His ways, how could we comprehend them?
So we will make it known to our kids
And we will sing about the gracious gifts You give

CHORUS

*We will sing Your praise, and pour forth Your fame
We will bless Your name, let every one give thanks,
Because our God is great!*

3. O, great is our God, and we cannot contain it!
We sing from our souls, affected by His greatness!
His mercy covers all that He's made
Showing His glory and His grace

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God.
We have forgotten your faithfulness,
and we have entrusted our hopes to worthless idols.
In your great compassion, forgive us and free us from our sin.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation,
renew our identities as your beloved children,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF ASSURANCE

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART / *MUSIC KEITH GREEN*

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord
And take not Thy holy spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God! He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves
but for him who died for them and was raised again. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has
come: The old has gone, the new is here!
— based on John 1:29; 2 Cor. 5:15-17 (NIV)

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 — EZEKIEL 36:22-28

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the LORD GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the LORD GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God." [ESV]

THE 2ND LESSON — JOHN 3:1-8

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [ESV]

THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

Easter Sermon Series: "Meeting Jesus"
Sermon Title: "You Must be Born Again"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the joy and hope of the resurrection resounding in our hearts, minds and bodies, let us offer our prayers for ourselves and the world to God through the Lord's Prayer. We are bold to pray:

Together 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 and ever. **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

TREMBLE / MOSAIC

1. Peace, bring it all to peace
The storm surrounding me
Let it break at Your name
Still, call the sea to still
The rage in me to still
Every wave at Your name

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, you make the darkness tremble
Jesus, Jesus, you silence fear
Jesus, Jesus, you make the darkness tremble
Jesus, Jesus

2. Breathe,
then call these bones to live
Call these lungs to sing
Once again, I will praise

Bridge

Your name is a light that the shadows can't deny
Your name cannot be overcome
Your name is alive, forever lifted high
Your name cannot be overcome

GRACE TO YOU & PEACE / FERNANDO 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 Remember who you are: by water and the Spirit you are God's beloved! You are a chosen people, 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. — from John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:9

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 *pentekoste* 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

	<u>JAN-APR</u>	<u>MAY 2020*</u>	<u>MERCY**</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$142,240	\$4,358	\$8,995
BUDGETED GIVING _____	144,000	36,000	NA
DIFFERENCE _____	-1,760	-31,642	NA

*as of 5/6/2020; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

**YEAR-TO-DATE MERCY SPECIAL OFFERING CONTRIBUTIONS (FOR COVID-19 RELIEF)

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: 673 236 476

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