



PENTECOST SUNDAY | MAY 31, 2020

REFLECTIONS

“Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

C.S. LEWIS

“Without Pentecost the Christ-event—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now.”

HENRI NOUWEN

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader The love of God has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us;

All we dwell in him and he in us.

Leader By grace, we have been washed in the waters of baptism;
by grace, we have been baptized by the Holy Spirit,
the same Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation and raised Jesus from the dead.
Let us sing and be glad!

**All With all heaven and earth we sing:
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty!**

— based Rom 5:5, 8:11; Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:8

SONG OF PRAISE

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD / MARTIN LUTHER

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper He, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not His equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same;
and He must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

PENTECOST CONFSSION OF FAITH

Leader Holy Spirit, God Eternal, we praise you! You open the gates to the Kingdom of God to every race, tribe, nation and language. You seal the promises of Jesus Christ in all who believe in his name. Our Helper and Spirit of truth, we praise you and confess our faith:

Together We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified
and who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

— based on Acts 2, Eph. 1:12-14; Jn. 15:26 & the Nicene Creed

SONGS OF PRAISE

HE IS LORD / JOHN BARNETT

I will call on the name of the Lord, my God
I will lift up my voice to give praise to my King
*He's the light in the darkness
He's the calm in the storm
He's the hope of the righteous
He is Lord, He is Lord*

There is peace in the presence of the Lord, my God
There is power in the blood of the Lamb that was slain
*Every knee will bow,
every tongue confess that He is Lord
Every knee will bow,
every tongue confess that He is Lord*

WHO YOU SAY I AM / FIELDING & MORGAN

1. Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me, oh His love for me

CHORUS 1

*Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes I am*

2. Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

CHORUS 2

*Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes I am*

BRIDGE

*I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together Holy Spirit,
you come to us with courage, but we have been afraid.
You come to us with truth, but we cling to illusions and lies.
You come to us with healing, but we cannot let go of our hurts
and we entrust our bodies to false promises of wholeness.
Holy Spirit of forgiveness, come to us again.
Shake our hearts, set our souls on fire with the love of the Father,
and renew in us the joy the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
We confess our sin; we give you our guilt and shame.
Forgive us and overwhelm us with the abundant life of our Lord.
With your help, may we live as the beloved sons and daughters of God. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

BONHOEFFER'S PRAYER / WORDS: D. BONHOEFFER; MUSIC: BIFROST ARTS

Lord, early in the morning
We cry unto You
In You there is light, when I cannot see
In You there is love, patience and peace
Lord, I do not understand Your ways
But You know the way for me

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Do you want to be healed? Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. By his wounds you are healed. By water and the Spirit you are born again. Get up, sin no more and be glad!
Believe and be at peace. — based on Jn. 1:29; 3:5; 5:8

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.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES

Let us recognize the hard work and achievements of our graduates. More importantly, let us give thanks for their faith, gifts, talents and important place in the life of our church family.

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 — PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [ESV]

THE 2ND LESSON — JOHN 5:1-18

¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. ³ In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ⁵ One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” ⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” ⁸ Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” ⁹ And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰ So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” ¹¹ But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, ‘Take up your bed, and walk.’” ¹² They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” ¹³ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. ¹⁴ Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. [ESV]

THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

*Sermon Series: “Meeting Jesus”
Sermon Title: “Grace First, Then Gratitude”*

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, our King and Lover of our souls. In light of Pentecost, let us pray especially for the Church and her calling and the healing of human relationships.

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

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS / THOMAS CHRISHOLM

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
as Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

CHORUS

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness,
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

GRACE AND PEACE / FERNANDO 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

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader Walk by the Spirit! Remember that the fruit of Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you overflow with love and hope.— *from Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 15:13*

All **Amen! Alleluia!**

PENTECOST

“Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (Lev. 23:15-21; Deut. 16:16).

Pentecost symbolizes a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. In celebrating Pentecost, the church expresses its gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send ‘another counselor’ (John 14:16); celebrates the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation; professes its confidence and security in knowing the Spirit’s power is available for its mission; and grows in awareness of the immensity of its calling to reach the world with the gospel. The traditional color for Pentecost is red, after the flames described in Acts 2:3.” — *From the Worship Sourcebook*

GIVING & BUDGET

	<u>JAN-APR</u>	<u>MAY 2020¹</u>	<u>MERCY²</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$142,790	\$34,935	\$12,105
BUDGETED GIVING _____	144,000	36,000	NA
DIFFERENCE _____	-1,210	-1,065	NA

¹as of 5/26/2020; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

²Year-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

No Social Hour Today. Take time to connect with your City Group, friends and neighbors.