



ORDINARY TIME | AUGUST 23, 2020

REFLECTIONS

The devil's first trick is to convince us that he doesn't exist.

BAUDELAIRE

In its European origins, the word *attention* means to bend toward. In this there is inclination and orientation. We know another person is attending to us when the other stops, leans and turns toward us, and we see this in artistic representations of the Holy Trinity in which the three Holy Persons lean in toward one another. Theologically understood, reality is attentional in its deepest structure.

SUSAN PHILLIPS | *THE CULTIVATED LIFE*

But there is another way: to live neither on the defensive nor on the offensive, but to take our stand as Christians, acting and believing out of who we are in Christ, neither in panic before the enemy nor in a crusade against it. This is the way Paul lays out in Ephesians. We are called to realize and cultivate our unique identity as men and women living under the lordship of Christ in the household of God that is the church; we are witnesses to a unique and revealed way of life in the practice of resurrection - resurrection not as an abstract doctrine or "truth," not as a strategy or program, but as personally incarnate in Jesus and now in us.

EUGENE PETERSON | *PRACTICING RESURRECTION*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
**Together my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

Leader O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Leader People of God, let us sing and be glad! — from Ps. 130

SONG OF PRAISE

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS / EDWARD MOTE

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness!
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

CHORUS

*On Christ the solid rock I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay!

4. When He shall come
with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone;
Faultless to stand before the throne.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Leader Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.
You are greater than we can understand;
open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths
you have shown to us in Jesus.
You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;
help us to give ourselves to you in worship
so that we learn what you want us to be.
You are wiser than we can know;
still our minds as we worship you
so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.
Loving God, in Jesus you chose to come to the world in humility.
You chose the path the world saw as foolish.
You used what the world considered weak.
We worship and adore you. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

HOLY SPIRIT LIGHT DIVINE / ADAPTED BY 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!

10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD) / MATT REDMAN

CHORUS

*Bless the Lord,
O my soul, O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

1. The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

2. You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

3. And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

God of grace and truth,
we confess we put on airs more often than we put on the armor of God.
We are guilty of girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth.
We protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition, and self-reliance
instead of righteousness, faith, and your gift of salvation.
Our footsteps do not follow your path of peace.
Our words do not reflect your Word,
and so we speak exclusion and division.
We are slow to pray with hope.
Forgive us, Holy God, and put your love on us.
Make us alert to your presence in our lives
and give us strength to proclaim your salvation in all we do and say. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

MORE LOVE TO THEE / ELIZABETH PRENTISS

1. More love to Thee, O Christ,
more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
more love, O Christ, to Thee;
more love to Thee, more love to Thee!

2. Once earthly joy I craved,
sought peace and rest;
now Thee alone I seek,
give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be:
more love, O Christ to Thee;
more love to Thee, more love to Thee!

3. Then shall my latest breath
whisper Thy praise;
this be the parting cry
my heart shall raise;
still all my prayer shall be:
more love, O Christ to Thee;
more love to Thee, more love to Thee!

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Fear not! Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Whoever follows him will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Believe in him, stand firm and resist all the schemes of darkness.

— from John 8:12; Eph. 6:11

All **Thanks be to God!**
Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Take a moment during announcements and “pass the peace” to one another. Text, call, hug the person next to you.

** 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 — LUKE 12:32-40

³² “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

³⁵ “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” [ESV]

THE 2ND LESSON — EPHESIANS 6:10-21

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the [brothers and sisters], and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. [ESV]

THE SERMON — MARC CHOI

Sermon Series: “Growing in the Comprehensive Gospel”

Sermon Title: “A Comprehensive Perseverance”

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. Let us be still before the Lord and pray in hope.

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

JUST AS I AM / CHARLOTTE ELLIOT

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O, Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O, Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because Thy promise I believe,
O, Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, Thy love unknown
hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be Thine, yea Thine alone,
O, Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, of that free love,
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove;
here for a season, then above
O, Lamb of God, I come, I come

AARON'S BLESSING / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you
May the Lord make His face to shine on you
And be gracious to you
And be gracious to you

May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May the Lord lift His countenance on you
May He keep you in perfect peace
May He keep you in perfect peace

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader Be filled with the Spirit and be alert! Take up the armor of God and stand firm. Resist evil and put on love. Pray at all times for all things, making supplication for all the saints. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.
— based on Eph. 6

All **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

ORDINARY TIME

As Phillip Reinders says in *Seeking God's Face*:

“With all the big holidays and celebrations over, Ordinary Time offers us the space to find our place in God’s story. We’ve celebrated and taken in the momentous life of Jesus; now we need a long stretch of days to absorb and assimilate it. In Ordinary Time, we fully take in the gospel, allowing it to take shape in our daily living, making connections between Jesus’ story and our lives. ‘Ordinary’ doesn’t mean boring or second-rate but simply ‘everyday.’ The Christian faith is not an otherworldly faith; it’s about this creation, your life, these days. Ordinary Time gives us the space to consider all the implications of God’s salvation in Jesus Christ for our day by day, week-in, week-out lives. As such, it is a time of listening to the story of God’s people.”

GIVING & BUDGET

	<u>JAN-JUL</u>	<u>AUG 2020¹</u>	<u>MERCY²</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$265,950	\$19,981	\$15,020
BUDGETED GIVING _____	252,000	36,000	---
DIFFERENCE _____	+13,950	-16,019	---

¹as of 8/21/2020; 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*