



ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

REFLECTIONS

Our debt to God is infinitely beyond our capacity to pay. Our debt to God is infinitely greater than any person's debt to us. When we truly experience God's forgiveness for our sins it will transform us into forgiving people.

RANDY ALCORN

Revenge indeed seems often sweet to men, but oh, it is only sugared poison, only sweetened gall. Forgiving enduring love alone is sweet and blissful and enjoys peace and the consciousness of God's favor. By forgiving it gives away and annihilates the injury. It treats the injurer as if he had not injured and therefore feels no more the smart and sting that he had inflicted.

WILLIAM ARNOT

Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the community of humans even as I exclude myself from the community of sinners.

MIROSLAV VOLF

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when God's people dwell in unity!

Together **May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts as one body!**

Leader Let us sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one
another and rejoice in the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Together **May the truth of Christ rule in us and set us free to love!**

Leader Let us hear what the Lord will speak,
Together **for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints!**

— from Ps. 133; Col. 3; Ps. 85

SONG OF PRAISE

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING / ROBERT ROBINSON

1. Come Thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it,
mount of Thy redeeming love!

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

3. Oh to grace how great a debtor,
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to Thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, oh take and seal it;
seal it for Thy courts above!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Together Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
we praise you for you are love!
In this hour of worship
lift us out of the routine of our daily lives,
the worries that besiege our hearts and minds,
and, most importantly,
the numbness we feel towards your presence.
Lift us and set us up on your holy mountain.
Overwhelm us with your presence and revive us!
Let our worship come from our hearts, that it may be genuine.
Let our praises for you leap from our mouths,
that we may be alive with faith and joy. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

BUILD MY LIFE / BARRET, REDMAN, ET AL.

1. Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for You

2. Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe We live for You

CHORUS

*Holy, there is no one like You, there is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder, show me who You are and fill me
With Your heart and lead me in Your love to those around me*

BRIDGE

*I will build my life upon Your love, it is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone, and I will not be shaken*

COME YE SINNERS, POOR, AND NEEDY / JOSEPH HART

1. Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
bruised and broken by the fall!
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pardoning love for all.
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more!
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more!

2. Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
All that He requires of sinners
is to lean and trust on Him.
He will save you, He will save you,
'tis the Gospel's constant theme!
He will save you, He will save you,
'tis the Gospel's constant theme!

3. Lo! Th' 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.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus,
can do helpless sinners good.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

Jesus, forgive our sins.
Forgive the sins that we remember, and the sins we have forgotten.
Forgive our many failures in the face of temptation,
and those times when we have refused correction.
Forgive the times we have boasted of our achievements,
and those times when we have failed to boast in your works.
Forgive the lies we have told to others, and the truths we have avoided.
Forgive the harsh judgments we have made of others,
and the leniency we have shown ourselves.
Forgive the times we have demanded forgiveness,
but withheld mercy and grace from those seeking it.
Jesus, have mercy on us and make us whole. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

RECKLESS LOVE / CORY ASHBURY

1. Before I spoke a word,
You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath
You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me

CHORUS

*Oh the overwhelming
never-ending reckless love of God,
Oh it chases me down fights til I'm found
leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it and I don't deserve it
still You give Yourself away
Oh the overwhelming
never-ending reckless love of God*

2. When I was Your foe
still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth
You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me

BRIDGE

*There's no shadow
You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
coming after me
There's no wall
You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me*

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Believe, be at peace, and forgive as you have been forgiven!

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 — MATTHEW 18:15-35

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

²³ “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” [ESV]

THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

Sermon Title: “Forgiveness & Reconciliation”

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. Take a moment to consider your hopes, dreams and desires for yourself, church, city and world. In faith and hope, let us pray boldly as Jesus taught:

Together Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. **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

PSALM 23 / MUSIC: BERNARD & RACHEL CHADWICK

1. The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters;
He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness,
for His name's sake.

CHORUS
*Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and staff, they comfort me.*

2. You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love
will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house
of the LORD Forever.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER / MUSIC: FERNANDO ORTEGA

Glory be to the Father	As it was in the beginning
Glory be to the Son	Is now, and ever shall be
Glory be to the Holy	World without end
Ghost (2x)	world without end
	Amen, Amen

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May the grace of God, deeper than our imagination; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, unshakable even in these times, guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows.

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	\$28,736	\$15,020
BUDGETED GIVING _____	252,000	36,000	---
DIFFERENCE _____	+13,950	-7,264	---

¹as of 8/31/2020; 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*