



ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

REFLECTIONS

“Beauty is a gratuitous gift of the creator God; it finds its source and its purpose in God’s character. God, out of his gratuitous love, created a world he did not need because he is an artist.”

MAKOTO FUJIMURA | *CULTURE CARE*

“A voice had begun to sing. It was very far away and Digory found it hard to decide from what direction it was coming. Sometimes it seemed to come from all directions at once. Sometimes he almost thought it was coming out of the earth beneath them. Its lower notes were deep enough to be the voice of the earth herself. There were no words. It was hardly a tune. But it was beyond comparison, the most beautiful sound he had ever heard.”

C.S. LEWIS | *From THE MAGICIAN’S NEPHEW about the creation of Narnia and all things*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader The heavens declare the glory of God.
Together May our voices join creation’s song!
Leader The skies proclaim God’s handiwork.
Together May our worship and life together testify to God’s love!
Leader Holy Spirit, open our ears and hearts to God’s creative Word.
**Together For the Word of the Lord is perfect,
more precious than gold and sweeter than honey!**
Leader Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
Together be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer.

— based on Ps. 19

SONG OF PRAISE

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES / *FROM Ps. 24; MUSIC: GEORGE WEISSEL*

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| 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! | 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! | 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! |
| 2. A helper just, He comes to thee;
his chariot is humility;
his kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter, kindness in distress! | 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. | |

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Together Jesus Christ,
you are the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of creation.
By you all things were created, in heaven and on earth,
and all things were created through you and for you.
You were before all things and in you all things hold together,
and you are the head of the body, the Church.
God was pleased to have his fullness dwell in you
and through you to reconcile all things to himself.
By the blood you shed on the cross, we have peace.
Lord of all and Eternal Word we praise and glorify you! **Amen.**

— based on Col. 1

SONGS OF PRAISE

ALL YOUR WORKS ARE GOOD / SANDRA McCracken

1. The moon it marks the seasons
The sun knows when to go down
The ocean holds its creatures
The river knows its bounds
2. The birds, the trees, the cattle,
And all things great and small
We find our place in creation
Your hand sustains it all

CHORUS

*All Your works are good
All Your works are good
From everlasting, to everlasting
All Your works are good*

3. He makes the clouds His chariot
He wraps Himself in light
He stretches out the heavens
Like a tent across the sky

4. He knows our every burden
When darkness veils our eyes
He comes with spring returning
Bringing death to life (*Chorus*)

5. As we labor until evening
There's a message on the wind
Be still and know your Maker
Be satisfied in Him (*Chorus*)

WHO YOU SAY I AM / B. FIELDING & R. 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 God, loving Creator of all,
you cause rain to fall on the just and unjust.
Sometimes we are part of the just,
and when we are part of the unjust, forgive us. (*Silence*)
When we forget to give you thanks
for your incredible gifts of soil, water, and air
that sustain our entire lives, forgive us. (*Silence*)
When we forget to take care of those resources, forgive us.
When we hoard these resources
and keep them from others who need them, forgive us. (*Silence*)
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us to refresh and renew us,
so that we can do what you command: to do justice, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with you. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

PRAISE TO THE LOVE / WORDS: DANTE & B. CHADWICK; MUSIC: B. CHADWICK

Praise to the love that moves the stars, that stirs in the depths of our hearts.

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader

By the Word of God we are created, and by the same Word, we are forgiven and re-created. In Jesus Christ, the old has gone and the new has come. Believe and be at peace!

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 — JOHN 1:1-4

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. [ESV]

THE 2ND LESSON — GENESIS 1:1-5

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. [ESV]

THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

Sermon Series: “We Begin...”
Sermon Title: “We Begin with Creation & Beauty”

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

FAIREST LORD JESUS / ANONYMOUS; TRANS: JOSEPH SEISS

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight
and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heav'n can boast.

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

GRACE TO YOU & PEACE / MUSIC: 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 The love of God the Father, the faithful creator,
the peace of Christ, the wounded healer,
the joy of the challenging Spirit,
the hope of the Three in One
surround and encourage you
today, tonight, and forever. — *from 1 Thess. 5:22-23*

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-AUG</u>	<u>SEP 2020¹</u>	<u>MERCY²</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$294,686	\$13,522	\$15,020
BUDGETED GIVING _____	288,000	36,000	---
DIFFERENCE _____	+6,686	-22,478	---

¹as of 9/11/2020; 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