



ORDINARY TIME | SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

REFLECTIONS

"The greatest temptations are not those that solicit our consent to obvious sin, but those that offer us great evils masking as the greatest goods."

THOMAS MERTON | *NO MAN IS AN ISLAND*

"The Church must suffer for speaking the truth, for pointing out sin, for uprooting sin. No one wants to have a sore spot touched, and therefore a society with so many sores twitches when someone has the courage to touch it and say: 'You have to treat that. You have to get rid of that. Believe in Christ. Be converted.'"

OSCAR A. ROMERO | *THE VIOLENCE OF LOVE*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader	Lord God, you have called us and we have come to worship you!
Together	We come as people who have forgotten our true identities; we come in need of your gracious truth.
Leader	We come tired from our work, in need of your refreshment and re-creation.
Together	We come with worries, in need of your comfort and peace.
Leader	But first, please lift us out of our preoccupation with our own needs.
Together	Give us eyes of faith to see you and ears of compassion to hear the cries of our neighbors.
Leader	Make us thankful for all the good we have received from you.
Together	Awaken in us a longing to do what is right; awaken in us songs of praise!

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!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Together We give thanks to you, God our Father,
for mercy that reaches out, for patience that waits our returning,
for your love that is ever ready to welcome sinners.
We praise you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with forgiveness,
and that, by your Holy Spirit, you move us
to repent and receive your love.
Though we are sinners and unfaithful, you are faithful!
We praise you, great God, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

WE ARE NOT OVERCOME / BIFROST ARTS

CHORUS

Because of His great love
We are not overcome
Because of His great love
We are not overcome

1. Flesh will fail, bones will break
Thieves will steal, the earth will shake
Night will fall, light will fade
The Lord will give, and take away
2. Put no trust in the earth
In the ground you stand upon
Flowers fade into dust
The Lord will make a place for us

3. Have no fear, for your life
Turn your cheek, Turn your cheek
Bear the yoke, love in death
The Lord will give life and breath

EVIDENCE / JOSH BALDWIN

1. All throughout my history
Your faithfulness has walked beside me
The winter storms made way for spring
In every season, from where I'm standing

CHORUS

I see the evidence of Your goodness
All over my life, all over my life
I see Your promises in fulfillment
All over my life, all over my life

2. Help me remember when I'm weak
Fear may come but fear will leave
You lead my heart to victory
You are my strength
and You always will be

BRIDGE

See the cross, the empty grave
The evidence is endless
All my sin rolled away
Because of You, oh Jesus

ENDING

Why should I fear, the evidence is here

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves;
though you should rule us, we control ourselves;
though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves;
We think your truth too high, your will too hard,
your power too remote, your love too lacking. But they are not!
And without them, we are of all people most miserable.
Now heal our confused minds with your word,
heal our divided wills with your law,
heal our troubled consciences with your love,
heal our anxious hearts with your presence,
all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

SING TO JESUS / FERNANDO ORTEGA

Come and see, look on this mystery
The Lord of the universe, nailed to a tree
Christ our God, spilling His Holy blood
Bowing in anguish, His sacred head
Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame
Lord of our sinful hearts, He is our great redeemer
Sing to Jesus, honor His name
Sing of His faithfulness, pouring His life out unto death
Come you weary, and He will give you rest
Come you who mourn, lay on His breast
Christ who died, risen in Paradise
Giver of mercy, Giver of life

Sing to Jesus, His is the throne
Now and forever He is the King of Heaven
Sing to Jesus, we are His own
Now and forever sing for the love our God has shown
Sing to Jesus, Lord of our shame
Lord of our sinful hearts
He is our great redeemer
Sing to Jesus, honor His name
Sing to Jesus, His is the throne
Now and forever He is the King of Heaven
Sing to Jesus, we are His own
Now and forever sing for the love our God has shown

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 — GENESIS 2:15-18; 21-23; 3:1-9

^{2:15} The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” [ESV]

THE SERMON — MARC CHOI

Sermon Series: “We Begin...”
Sermon Title: “We Begin and Fall”

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER / *ARRANGED BY THE STAPLES SINGERS*

Our Father which 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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
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.

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE / *FRANCES HAVERGAL*

1. Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, for Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise

2. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee,
swift and beautiful for Thee.

3. Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from Thee;
filled with messages from Thee.

4. Take my will and make it Thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
it shall be Thy royal throne,
it shall be Thy royal throne.

5. Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for Thee,
ever, only, all for Thee.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body
be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. — *from 1 Thess. 5:22-24*

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	\$34,431	\$15,020
BUDGETED GIVING _____	288,000	36,000	---
DIFFERENCE _____	+6,686	-1,569	---

¹as of 9/25/2020; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

²Year-to-date Mercy special offering contributions (for COVID-19 relief)