



ORDINARY TIME | OCTOBER 18, 2020

REFLECTIONS

"[Faith] is trust in God's character and obedience to His living voice expressed in His Word. Consequently the object of faith in the Old Testament is the promise of God which awaits its fulfillment in the coming of Christ. Faith looked forward then, just as now it looks backward to its object in Christ. It is interesting to notice how this is expressed in the teaching of Hebrews that "faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Heb. 11:1)." In fact this perspective runs through the whole of Hebrews 11: Noah...Abel...Enoch...and Abraham 'did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance (v13).' Even the martyrs who were commended for their faith did not receive what had been promised (v39). Faith for them was hearing the testimony of God, trusting His promise, and living in the light of God's faithfulness to it."

SINCLAIR FERGUSON | *THE CHRISTIAN LIFE*

"Don't dig up in doubt what you planted in faith."

ELISABETH ELLIOT

"The Old Testament is like a fully furnished room that's very poorly lit."

B.B. WARFIELD

"For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12 [NIV]

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader	God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, is faithful.
Together	He is a faithful Lord, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.
Leader	He is faithful to fill his people with the promised Holy Spirit and to fill the barrenness of our tired lives with the riches of his grace.
Together	We praise our promise-making and promise-keeping God, saying: "Great is your faithfulness! Great is your grace! Great is your love!"

SONG OF PRAISE

HOW GREAT THOU ART / BOBERG & HINE

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

CHORUS

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
how great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
how great Thou art, how great Thou art!

2. And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

3. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
and take me home what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Together O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart! We bless your name, for you give salvation to your people according to all that you promised; not one word has failed! You are with us now, as you were with our fathers and mothers in faith. You will not leave us or abandon us; surely you are with us always, to the end of the age. As we worship, fill us with your life giving Word and incline our hearts to you, that we may walk in your ways, keep your commandments, and cling to your promise. **Amen.**

— based on 1 Kings 8; Matthew 28:20

SONGS OF PRAISE

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG / WORDS: PSALM 96; MUSIC: B. CHADWICK

Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

For great is the Lord, most worthy of praise!
For great is our God, most worthy of praise!

Let the whole earth sing
To the Name above all names

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
O, 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

God of faithful love, in your kindness, you call us to be your people
and promise to fill our lives with the riches of your grace.
We receive your promise gladly, but we are quick to doubt when troubles arise;
when sorrows multiply; when others have more than we do;
when grasping power, prestige, and pleasure by our own efforts
seems easier and more satisfying than waiting for you.
Our hearts are divided. How easily our devotion dies.
But your grip on us never fails! Who is like you?
As you swore from days of old, you sent your Son and did not spare him,
but gave him up for us all so that we may grasp how wide, how long,
how high and how deep your love is.
Forgive us, overwhelm us with your faithfulness, and rekindle our love for you. **Amen.**

— based on Micah 7:20; Ro. 8:32, Eph. 3:18

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

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we
might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Believe and be at peace!

— from 1 John 4:9-10

All

Thanks be to God!

Leader

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Continue passing the peace to one another during announcements.

** 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 15

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

⁷ And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites." [ESV]

THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

Sermon Series: "Genesis: We Begin..."

Sermon Title: "We Begin with Blessing"

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: Abraham heard God's promise and believed, and God counted it to him as righteousness. In response to God's word to us today, let us profess our faith. Brothers and sisters, in whom do you believe, what is his work, and what comfort does he give?

Together: **We believe in Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God.
He presented himself in our name before his Father,
to appease his wrath with full satisfaction
by offering himself on the tree of the cross
and pouring out his precious blood for the cleansing of our sins,
as the prophets had predicted.
He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.
We find all comfort in his wounds
and have no need to seek or invent any other means
to reconcile ourselves with God than this one and only sacrifice,
once made, which renders believers perfect forever.
Amen, alleluia!**

(Based on the Nicene Creed and Belgic Confession, Articles 20-21)

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

WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER / HORATIO SPAFFORD

1. When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control;
That Christ has regarded
my helpless estate and hath shed
His own blood for my soul

3. And Lord, haste the day
when the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul

REFRAIN

It is well (it is well)
with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

DOXOLOGY / THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Amen*

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader When the voice of the accuser tempts you to despair, remember this truth: All the promises of God find their Yes in Jesus Christ. Our God has promised strength for the weak, rest for the weary, light for the way and grace upon grace. May God be with you and help you continue in his promises. — *based on 2 Cor. 1:20*

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	\$17,610	\$15,020
BUDGETED GIVING _____	288,000	36,000	---
DIFFERENCE _____	+6,686	-18,390	---

¹as of 9/30/2020; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors

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