



## ORDINARY TIME | NOVEMBER 1, 2020

### REFLECTIONS

"To be a follower of the Crucified Christ means, sooner or later, a personal encounter with the cross. And the cross always entails loss."

ELISABETH ELLIOT

"Sacrifice without obedience is sacrilege."

WILLIAM GURNALL | *A PURITAN TREASURY*

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

C.T. STUDD | *QUOTED IN LEADING WITH LOVE*

"[I can imagine Paul saying,] 'Within the scope of the test of apostleship, what counts is not my doctrine or my orthodoxy, or my connections, but that my heart and life bear the brand of the cross: it has cost me something to follow Jesus.'"

ALAN REDPATH

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader	What does the Lord require of you?
<b>Together</b>	<b>To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.</b>
Leader	What does God command of us?
<b>Together</b>	<b>To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.</b>
Leader	How is this possible?
<b>All</b>	<b>Alone this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!</b>
Leader	Let us worship the God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who calls us and abides with us!
<b>Together</b>	<b>Let us worship the God who gives up his life to be with us!</b>

— Micah 6:8; Matt. 19:24; 22:7

### SONG OF PRAISE

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS / M. BRIDGES & F. ORTEGA

1. Crown Him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! How the heavenly  
anthem drowns,  
all music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing,  
of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King,  
through all eternity.

2. Crown Him the Lord of love,  
behold His hands and side,  
Those wounds, yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified.

No angel in the sky,  
can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye,  
at mysteries so bright.

3. Crown Him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife,  
for those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing,  
who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

4. Crown Him the Lord of years,  
the potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For Thou has died for me;  
Thy praise shall never,  
never fail through all eternity.

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Together** O God, you alone are the author and foundation of hope,  
and you alone are worthy of our worship and praise.  
Enable us to rely with confident expectation on your promises,  
knowing that the trials and hindrances of the present time  
are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed.  
Because of your loving kindness, all will be well.  
Because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ  
and the work of the Holy Spirit, all will be well and all must be well! **Amen.**

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## SONGS OF PRAISE

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### PROVIDE FOR ME / RYAN DELMORE

Maker of the heavens, Maker of the earth  
I look up to the mountains  
Where does my help come from?  
It comes from You, it comes from You  
It comes from You, my strength and my shield

You will save me in times of trouble  
You will hold me in times of doubt  
You will provide for me, Lover of my soul  
You will provide for me

### 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*

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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Together

God of the past, present and future:  
You have plans to prosper us and plans to give us hope and a future;  
you promise to abide with us and to bring us into the fullness of your purposes.  
Yet, we do not believe your goodness, so we fear the future and cling to false hopes;  
we do not believe your generosity, so we believe you help those who help themselves;  
we do not believe your faithfulness, so we are unfaithful to you and others.  
Have mercy on us and forgive us.  
Open our ears and speak your promises to us again.  
Open our hearts and overwhelm us with your presence.  
Give us courage to sacrifice all false forms of security and to trust only in you.  
Overwhelm us with your love so that we may be free to love others.  
In the name of Jesus, our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

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## SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

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### ROCK OF AGES / A. TOPLADY; F. ORTEGA

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
save from wrath and make me pure.

2. Could my tears forever flow,  
could my zeal no longer know,  
for these sins what could atone;  
Thou must save and Thou alone;  
in my hand no price I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling .

3. While I draw this final breath,  
and my eyes shall close in death;  
when I rise to worlds unknown,  
and behold Thee on Thy throne;  
Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee.

4. Nothing in my hand I bring  
simply to the cross I cling,  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.

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## WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

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Leader

Fear not! While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. By his grace, we are now, like Isaac, children of promise and qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.  
Believe and be at peace! — from Ro. 3:23, Gal. 4:28, Eph. 1:28

All

**Thanks be to God!**

Leader

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All

**And also with you.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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\* 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.

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## THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

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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](mailto:info@gracepasadena.org).

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## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON — GENESIS 22:1-14

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<sup>1</sup> After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup> And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup> When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." [ESV]

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## THE SERMON — BRANNIN PITRE

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

*Sermon Title: "We Begin with Faith"*

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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Leader: In response to the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus Christ, let us pray for ourselves, city and world. Take a moment to name your desires, both big and small.

Lord, teach us to doubt the voice of our own fears and to receive the gift of your presence with humility and gratitude. Like Abraham and Isaac, teach us to follow you even when it seems impossible. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, bless those whom you have called to lead your people. Strengthen our leaders to do what is good and right. Guide our elections. Give us wisdom as we vote and help us to remember that you are the King of Kings and the true hope of the nations. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we cry out for our neighbors who are in harms way of the fires. We cry out for those in harms way of hurricanes and flooding. We cry out for those displaced by violence and the currents of national and international politics. Bring your comfort, relief and justice. Wipe the tears of those who cry, keep them safe, and bring them to your green pastures. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

Leader: Lord, to those who are sick, weary, lonely, or in distress, and to those who care for them, grant your tender care and the fellowship of your people and the hope of your new creation. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

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## A COMMUNION PRAYER

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**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.**

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## CLOSING SONGS

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### EVERY GRAIN OF SAND / BOB DYLAN

In the time of my confession,  
in the hour of my deepest need  
When the pool of tears beneath  
my feet flood every newborn seed  
There's a dyin' voice within me reaching out somewhere  
Toiling in the danger and in the morals of despair  
Don't have the inclination to look back on any mistake  
Like Cain, I now behold this chain of events  
that I must break  
In the fury of the moment I can see the Master's hand  
In every leaf that trembles, in every grain of sand  
Oh, the flowers of indulgence and the weeds of yesteryear  
Like criminals, they have choked  
the breath of conscience and good cheer  
The sun beat down upon the steps of time to light the way  
To ease the pain of idleness and the memory of decay

I gaze into the doorway of temptation's angry flame  
And every time I pass that way I always hear my name  
Then onward in my journey I come to understand  
That every hair is numbered like every grain of sand  
I have gone from rags to riches in the sorrow of the night  
In the violence of a summer's dream,  
in the chill of a wintry light  
In the bitter dance of loneliness fading into space  
In the broken mirror of innocence on each forgotten face  
I hear the ancient footsteps like the motion of the sea  
Sometimes I turn, there's someone there,  
other times it's only me  
I am hanging in the balance of the reality of man  
Like every sparrow falling, like every grain of sand

### GRACE TO YOU & PEACE / F. 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

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## BENEDICTION & SENDING

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Leader As you leave this time, go with this truth resounding in your hearts: The LORD will provide! He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also graciously give us all things? Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be the glory!  
—from Gen. 22:14; Ro. 8:32, Gal. 3:20-21

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

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## ORDINARY TIME

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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."

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## GIVING & BUDGET

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	JAN-AUG	OCT 2020 <sup>1</sup>	MERCY <sup>2</sup>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$294,686	\$22,469	\$15,020
BUDGETED GIVING	288,000	36,000	---
DIFFERENCE	+6,686	-13,531	---

<sup>1</sup>as of 10/23/2020; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors  
<sup>2</sup>Year-to-date Mercy special offering contributions (for COVID-19 relief)