



## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 21, 2021

### REFLECTIONS

“If you have never known the power of God’s love, then maybe it is because you have never asked to know it - I mean really asked, expecting an answer.”

FREDERICK BUECHNER | *THE MAGNIFICENT DEFEAT*

“The reason Jesus’ questions are so important to our formation is that they welcome us into a new way of knowing him. They shape us by inviting us to a bigger conversation, a deeper level of trust, and a new way of seeing reality.”

CASEY TYGRET | *BECOMING CURIOUS*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Come and see, come and see!  
**Together We come with all of our longings and desires.**  
Leader Come and see, come and see!  
**Together We come to know our God and to be known by him.**  
Leader Come and see, come and see!  
**Together We come with open hearts to experience Jesus anew.**  
Leader Come and see, come and wonder!  
**Together Out of our bondage, sorrow and night,  
Jesus, we come into your light and we worship you!**

— based on John 1:35-42

### SONG OF PRAISE

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD & KING / WORDS: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

1. All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
O, praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O, praise Him! O, praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav’n along,  
O, praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,

ye lights of evening, find a voice  
O, praise Him! O, praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. And all Ye men of tender heart,  
forgiving others take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on Him cast your care,  
O, praise Him! O, praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship Him in humbleness,  
O, praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father,  
praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one!  
O, praise Him! O, praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### PRAYER OF ADORATION

All Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.  
You are greater than we can understand;  
open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths  
you have shown to us in Jesus.  
You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;  
help us to give ourselves to you in worship  
so that we may wonder at the depths of your love.  
Loving God, we proclaim this marvelous mystery:  
In Jesus you chose to come to the world in humility.  
You chose the path the world saw as foolish.  
You used what the world considered weak.  
We worship and adore you. **Amen.**

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## SONGS OF PRAISE

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### 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*

### MERCY / *R. DELMORE*

Mercy shines like the sun in the morning  
Chasing the dark into blue skies  
Giving me hope for the day  
A new song of praise

And mercy, it falls like the rain upon me  
Taking away all my sorrows  
Covering all of my shame  
And now I can sing

Hallelujah, I'm washed  
In the blood of the Lamb  
Hallelujah, I'm forgiven  
Yes, I'm forgiven

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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All

Lord, we have denied you by refusing to know you.  
We have betrayed you by keeping our distance.  
We have mocked you by pretending we are not yours.  
We have belittled your power by wondering too little at all you have made.  
In closing ourselves to you, we have closed ourselves to our neighbors.  
Lord, we are lost; let your forgiveness find and surprise us.  
Welcome us into your strong, forgiving arms  
and let us know the joy of your salvation. **Amen.**

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## SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

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### OPEN MY LIPS / *MUSIC: F. ORTEGA*

Open my lips, I will sing Your praise forever  
Open my lips, O Lord, I will sing Your praise forever  
A broken spirit and a contrite heart  
These you will not despise  
Open my lips, I will sing Your praise forever

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## WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

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Leader

Behold, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, has washed us with his blood and has brought us close to God. Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise his name!

— based on John 1:29

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 MORNING LESSON – JOHN 1:35-46

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<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." [ESV]

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## THE SERMON – MARC CHOI

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LENTEN SERMON SERIES: THE CHARACTER OF JESUS

SERMON TITLE: "THE CURIOSITY OF JESUS"

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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Leader Father God, source of all righteousness, give us courage to name evil for what it is and to lament its destructive power. At the same time, as we see people doing what seems wrong, help us to remember how much you forgive us and love us. Give us peaceful hands, reconciling words, and patient hearts. For this, O Lord, we pray.

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Lord Jesus, we pray that your peace would be stronger than the violence in our world. We ask that your truth would drown out the lies in our world. Please let your kindness overcome the selfishness and fear in our world. May your peace protect Asian-American, Black, Brown, and other communities facing violence and terror. May your peace lead to the reconciliation of your beloved people. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Holy Spirit, lead us by the hand as we walk through unfamiliar places: through changes in our church, our school routines, our city, our world, and even in our homes. Help us to trust that you will always be with us, for you are God in us. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader God of compassion and healing, be close to all who are sick or frustrated or sad or lonely. Give them hope, and help them to see that you can make things new. As vaccinations continue and our city re-opens, give us eyes to see and hearts to care for those still in the grips of COVID-19. Point our lives towards Easter and make new room in our lives for the news that you have conquered sin and death. For this, O Lord, we pray:

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

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## A COMMUNION PRAYER

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**All** God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life. Grant that we, who are born again of water and the Spirit and nourished by your life giving Word, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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## CLOSING SONGS

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### PSALM 23 / MUSIC: THE CHADWICKS

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.

*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.*

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.

### AARON'S BLESSING / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

May the Lord bless you and keep you  
**May the Lord bless you and keep you**  
May the Lord make His face to shine on you  
**May the Lord make His face to shine on you**  
And be gracious to you  
**And be gracious to you**

May the Lord lift His countenance on you  
**May the Lord lift His countenance on you**  
May the Lord lift His countenance on you  
**May the Lord lift His countenance on you**  
May He keep you in perfect peace  
**May He keep you in perfect peace**

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## BENEDICTION & SENDING

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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, richer than our togetherness, guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows. Full of God's love, be ready at all times to invite one another and the world to "come and see" the living God.

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

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## LENT

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Lent is here! Starting on Ash Wednesday, Lent lasts for 40 days (the Sundays in Lent are not considered part of the season). It ends on the Easter Vigil, the day before Easter Sunday. During this season, our attention is drawn to the suffering of Christ. As we contemplate his suffering, the Spirit draws us more deeply into his suffering and makes us ever more ready to pick up our crosses to follow Jesus and his example of love. A somber season, the color of the season is purple to represent Christ's suffering and royalty. Black is often used during Holy Week, especially on Good Friday. For more information about Lent, please see the Lenten Prayer guide on our website.

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## GIVING & BUDGET

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	<u>JAN-DEC '20</u>	<u>JAN-FEB '21</u>	<u>MAR '21<sup>1</sup></u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	<b>472,102</b>	<b>60,741</b>	<b>25,403</b>
BUDGETED GIVING _____	<b>468,00</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>
DIFFERENCE _____	<b>+4,102</b>	<b>-11,259</b>	<b>-10,597</b>

<sup>1</sup>as of 3/19/2021; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors