



THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 3, 2021

REFLECTIONS

“Otherworldliness can be a real temptation in the religion, but the Incarnation itself is a corrective. Down to earth, real flesh and blood...”

KATHLEEN NORRIS | AMAZING GRACE: A VOCABULARY OF FAITH

“Let us sing alleluia here on earth, while we still live in anxiety, so that we may sing it one day in heaven in full security... [Let] us sing now, not in order to enjoy a life of leisure, but in order to lighten our labors. You should sing as wayfarers do—sing, but continue your journey. Do not be lazy, but sing to make your journey more enjoyable. Sing, but keep going.”

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO | SERMON 256

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Lift up your hearts in prayer: lift up your voices in praise.
Let your eyes rise in expectation and your hands in exultation,
for the Lord has drawn near and dwells among us.

All **We lift them up and receive the gift of Jesus Christ,
the Light of the world and Hope of the nations.**

Leader Come as you are and be filled with gladness for Christ is here.
Let us worship!

SONG OF PRAISE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY / REGINALD HEBER

1. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons,
blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns

around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art
and evermore shall be!

3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy;
there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works
shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons,
blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

All Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, by the power of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may share the divine life of Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

HE IS LORD / JOHN BARNETT

I will call on the name of the Lord, my God
I will lift up my voice to give praise to my King
*He's the light in the darkness
He's the calm in the storm
He's the hope of the righteous
He is Lord, He is Lord*

There is peace in the presence of the Lord, my God
There is power in the blood of the Lamb
that was slain
*Every knee will bow,
every tongue confess that He is Lord
Every knee will bow,
every tongue confess that He is Lord*

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME /B. FIELDING & B. LIGERTWOOD

1. You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

CHORUS 1

*What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

2. You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

CHORUS 2

*What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

BRIDGE

*Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again*

*You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names*

CHORUS 3

*What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord.
When we reduce Christmas and its joy to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father.
When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching,
let your grace consume us, O God.
When the wars and violence around us are of no concern,
forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.
When our caring is not extended to action, move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.
We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.
We are but dust without your love. Remove all barriers that divide us,
and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

BONHOEFFER'S PRAYER /BIFROST ARTS

Lord, early in the morning
We cry unto You
In You there is light, when I cannot see
In You there is love, patience and peace
Lord, I do not understand Your ways
But You know the way for me

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
In Christ, we are forgiven! Believe and be at peace! —based on 1 Timothy 1:15

All

Thanks be to God!

Leader

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All

And also with you.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Take a moment during announcements and "pass the peace" by leaving a comment, texting, calling or emailing one another. Send us a selfie to info@gracepasadena.org
** Check our website for the latest updates and ways to invest in the life of our church and city.

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 MORNING LESSON - MATTHEW 17:1-8

¹And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. [ESV]

THE SERMON — JUSTIN BAILEY

Sermon Title: "A Glimpse of How Things Really Are"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader Take a moment to let the good news just proclaimed sink into your hearts. As you do so, bring to mind your thanksgivings, laments, and desires, as well as the needs of our city, congregation and world. *[Silence]*

All Now, let us boldly pray as our Savior taught:
**Our Father, who 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.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

A COMMUNION PRAYER

All Satisfy us and strengthen us, O God, with your steadfast love. Fill us with the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONGS

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG (PSALM 96) / BERNARD 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

GRACE TO YOU & PEACE / 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 Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace. Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope. Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Go in peace.

All **Glory to God in the highest! Amen!**

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

It's still Christmas! Christmas is not a single day affair, but a 12 day feast! How can it not be? Our long season of waiting and preparation culminates in the second biggest party of the year. (The first being Easter, of course!) The 12 days of Christmas ends on the Eve of the Epiphany (January 5), so let's keep celebrating the Good News that Jesus has come and is coming again! The colors for Christmas are gold and white, symbolizing the grandeur, glory and majesty of Christ, as well as the joy we have in him.

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*