



1ST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY | JANUARY 10, 2020

REFLECTIONS

“Darkness deserves gratitude. It is the alleluia point at which we learn to understand that all growth does not take place in the sunlight.”

JOAN CHITTISTER | *UNCOMMON GRATITUDE*

True freedom is the freedom of the children of God. To reach that freedom requires a lifelong discipline since so much in our world militates against it. The political, economic, social, and even religious powers surrounding us all want to keep us in bondage so that we will obey their commands and be dependent on their rewards.

HENRI NOUWEN | *BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
sin, death and oppression he has thrown into the sea.

**Together The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;**

Leader Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

**Together Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
who overcomes sin and death and brings life, life to the full.**

Leader Let us sing, let us wonder, let us worship!

—based on Exodus 15:1-2, 11; Psalm 114:7-8

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! 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, receive your love, and live in true freedom. Though we are sinners, you are faithful and worthy of all praise. We praise you, great God, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING / *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!

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

Jesus Christ, you placed us in the world to be its salt.
Yet, we let the world and its values influence us because we want to be powerful;
we let fear of judgment and ridicule keep us from proclaiming your good news.
Our salt dissolves as if in water. Forgive us.
Jesus Christ you placed us in the world to be its light.
Yet, we are afraid of the shadows and timid in naming evil;
we do not want to know other people's struggles;
we turn away from people and situations that require sacrificial love.
Our light slowly fades away. Forgive us.
Jesus Christ, you placed us in the world to live in community.
Thus you taught us to love, to share in life, to struggle for bread and justice.
Fill us with your words that we may be made new. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

BE THOU MY VISION / *TRANS. MARY E. BYRNE*

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light.

2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God.

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 MORNING LESSON — EXODUS 19:1-8

¹ On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³ while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ⁸ All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord. [ESV]

THE SERMON — JUSTIN BAILEY

Sermon Title: "Freedom for Fidelity"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Brothers and sisters, let us be honest about our laments, losses, and sorrows and offer them to our God, the one who weeps with us. As we pray, may the Holy Spirit fill us with comfort, hope, and compassion for ourselves, one another and the world.

Together O God, how long? We are tired and weary. We are full of sorrow. We are in need of your salvation.
Leader **O God, make speed to save us.**

Leader How long will you let us endure COVID-19 and the loss it brings? Our hearts are heavy with the death toll. Our hearts are heavy with the isolation and the loss of community. Our hearts are heavy with the inability to celebrate milestones together or to comfort each other in hardships. Our hearts are heavy with the loss of jobs and the deferment of dreams.

Together **O Lord, make haste to help us.**
Leader How long will you let the powerful abuse their power? How long will anger, envy, greed, and fear breed deep hurts and divisions in our households, city, country and world? King of the nations, we lament the violence in Washington, DC. We grieve for the many who were injured. We grieve for the lives lost.

Together **Holy Spirit, bring your comfort and justice.**
Leader On all who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 and on all who are wait for loved ones in critical care,
Together **Lord, have mercy.**
Leader On all who lost jobs, experiencing hunger, and financial hardship because of the pandemic,
Together **Christ, have mercy.**
Leader On all medical professionals and caretakers attending to those infected with the virus, on all scientists making vaccines and public health leaders distributing them, on all essential workers,
Together **Lord, have mercy.**
Leader On the most vulnerable of our society who are unable to buy extra food or get proper medical attention, on the countries that lack wealth and resources to protect their citizens,
Together **We cry out for healing and needed resources**
Leader On our leaders of institutions and governments,
Together **We cry out for accountability. We cry out for your wisdom and servant-heart to fill them.**
Leader On Grace Pasadena and your Church as we seek to embody your love to others in this season,
Together **O God, turn your face towards us.**

God of life, God of comfort: alone, afraid, in fear, in loss, we cry out: "Why, O Lord, why?" "How long, O Lord, how long?" We cling to you in hope even as we grasp for hope. So grasp us and the world in your loving embrace through Jesus Christ, who wept and endured the cross for our sake. 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

BUILD MY LIFE / BARRET, REDMAN, ETC.

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*

GRACE AND PEACE / FERNANDO ORTEGA

Grace and peace	And the Lord Jesus Christ
Grace and peace	And the Lord Jesus Christ
Grace and peace to you	And the Lord Jesus Christ
From God our Father	

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader Remember these words, be filled with joy and respond with obedience for the sake of the world: God has chosen you to be his treasured possession. Filled with his Spirit, be to him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Bless the world as you have been blessed. — based on Exodus 19:5-6

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

THE EPIPHANY SEASON

As Phillip Reinders says in *Seeking God's Face*: "Epiphany begins on January 6 and is marked by several events and themes in the life of Jesus: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding feast at Cana (the beginning of Jesus' ministry through signs and wonders). Each event unveils the fuller dimensions of the man we call Jesus. He is the worshiped King of kings, the dearly loved Son of God, and the miracle working Lord of the feast. Throughout the season of Epiphany (which some count as one day only, with the rest considered part of Ordinary Time) we focus on the ministry of Jesus: the calling of the disciples, the teachings of Christ, his miracles, and finally his transfiguration."

The season ends on the Eve of Ash Wednesday, also known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. The color of the season is green, symbolizing the new life Jesus makes possible. To lean into the season, we recommend the prayer guide at our website.

GIVING & BUDGET

	<u>JAN-DEC '20</u>	<u>DEC '20</u>	<u>JAN '21'</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	472,102	70,584	10,201
BUDGETED GIVING _____	468,00	72,000	36,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+4,102	-1,416	-25,799

'as of 1/8/2021; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors