



2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY | JANUARY 17, 2020

REFLECTIONS

“Any human face is a claim on you, because you can’t help but understand the singularity of it, the courage and loneliness of it.”

MARILYNNE ROBINSON | *GILEAD*

“Anyone who does not love Him Who made man has not learned to love man aright.”

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO | *SELECT LETTERS*

“To love another person is to see the face of God.”

LES MISÉRABLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Hear the words of our God and remember who you are and to what you are called because of his love: “You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

Together **We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
we will work with each other side-by-side;
we will guard each person’s dignity and save each person’s pride;
and the world will know our God by our love.**

Leader The Light of the world has come!
Let our light shine so that all may glorify our God.
Come, now is the time to wonder. Now is the time to sing.

—based on Eph. 2:19-21; Mt. 5:16; the hymn “They’ll Know We are Christians”

SONG OF PRAISE

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS YE MIGHTY GATES / FROM PSALM 24; MUSIC: GEORGE WEISSEL

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here!

2. A helper just, He comes to thee;
his chariot is humility;
his kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter, kindness in distress!

3. O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes,
to whom this King in triumph comes!

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart!
The Word made flesh descends to dwell
with joy for you who His mercies tell

5. So come, my Lord, and enter in,
let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on
until Thy glorious victories won!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Together You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. As we worship you, show us the fullness of your love, that our hearts might be filled with joy, hope, and peace; that we might be strengthened to face challenges of our day; that we might become the holy people we are called to be; that we might love as you love us. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE / CHARITIE BANCROFT

1. Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea;
A great High Priest,
Whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

2. When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

3. Behold Him there! The risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless Righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself, I cannot die;
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God

TREMBLE / MOSAIC

1. Peace, bring it all to peace
The storm surrounding me
Let it break at Your name
Still, call the sea to still
The rage in me to still
Every wave at Your name

CHORUS

*Jesus, Jesus, You make the darkness tremble
Jesus, Jesus, You silence fear
Jesus, Jesus, You make the darkness tremble
Jesus, Jesus*

2. Breathe, then call these bones to live
Call these lungs to sing
Once again, I will praise

BRIDGE

*Your name is a light that the shadows can't deny
Your name cannot be overcome
Your name is alive forever lifted high
Your name cannot be overcome*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

O Father of Light, from hardness of heart,
from slavery to darkness, from the worship of death, deliver us.
O Prince of Peace, from peace that is no peace,
from the grip of all that is evil, from a violent self-righteousness, deliver us.
O Spirit of Truth, from paralysis of will, from lies and misnaming,
from terror of truth, deliver us.
O God our King, from putting our nations
and paltry kingdoms above your Kingdom, deliver us.
We turn our eyes to the cross of Jesus Christ;
by its foolishness, forgive us and heal us. **Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE & ASSURANCE

BLESSED ASSURANCE / FANNY CROSBY

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

CHORUS

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

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 — 1 THESS. 5:12-26

¹² We ask you, [brothers and sisters], to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, [brothers and sisters], admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. ²⁵ [Brothers and sisters], pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all the [brothers and sisters], with a holy kiss. [ESV]

THE SERMON — MARC CHOI

Epiphany Series: "Apart, but Growing Together"

Sermon Title: "The Meaning of Relationships"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Brothers and sisters, let us be honest about our thanksgivings, hopes, and sorrows. As we pray, may the Holy Spirit fill us with comfort, hope, and compassion for ourselves, one another and the world. Take a moment to gather your prayers.

Loving Father, by your Spirit you give us eyes and ears by which we can discern the movements of your kingdom. Unite us as your family in your work of redemption, that your kingdom might not be divided by our weakness, but be advanced in joy and peace by your power. Make your Church the beloved community, a home, a refuge, and a means of reconciliation for all your people. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Christ the Son, empower our leaders to bring greater justice and peace. Move our leaders to cultivate understanding and the common good. Quell the political violence, bridge the divisions, and let your words of truth and peace be heard. Watch over the transition of our government and the inauguration. Guard those who suffer oppression or violence. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Holy Spirit, we ask your blessing for all who are in distress. Heal the sick, comfort the lonely, and renew the hope of the depressed. We beg your mercy upon those afflicted by COVID and those who care for them, and may the neediest receive vaccines without delay. We beg your mercy upon the homeless and under-resourced in our city; grant them shelter and sustenance, jobs and resources to find relief, and lead us to extend our own resources generously. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer and make haste to save us. 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

COME YE SINNERS POOR & NEEDY / J. HART

1. Come ye sinners, poor and needy,
bruised and broken by the fall!
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pardoning love for all.
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more!
He is able, He is able,
He is willing, doubt no more!

2. Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all that He requires of sinners
is to lean and trust on Him.
He will save you, He will save you,
'tis the Gospel's constant theme!
He will save you, He will save you,
'tis the Gospel's constant theme!

3. Lo! Th' incarnate God ascended,
pleads the merit of His blood;
venture on Him, venture wholly;
let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus,
can do helpless sinners good.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus,
can do helpless sinners good.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER / F. ORTEGA

Glory be to the Father	As it was in the beginning
Glory be to the Son	Is now, and ever shall be
Glory be to the Holy Ghost (2x)	World without end
	World without end
	Amen, Amen

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. Pray for one another and greet one another with a holy kiss. Go from here and let your light shine bright for the glory of our God.

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	22,246
BUDGETED GIVING _____	468,00	72,000	36,000
DIFFERENCE _____	+4,102	-1,416	-13,754

¹as of 1/15/2021; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors