

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader The God who made the world and everything in it is not hidden or far from you.

Together **The God who made us has revealed and made himself known to us in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord.**

Leader Let us join our voices and praise the living God, the God who is with us and working among us by his Holy Spirit.

Together **We join our voices and praise the God in whom we live and move and have our being!**

— based on Acts 17:22-27

SONG OF RESPONSE & PRAISE

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

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

Eternal God, you are the power behind all things:  
behind the energy of the storm,  
behind the heat of a million suns.  
Eternal God, you are the power behind all minds and hearts:  
behind the ability to think, feel and create,  
behind all understanding and experiences of the truth.  
Eternal God, you are the power behind the cross of Christ:  
behind the weakness, the torture, and the death,  
behind the resurrection and unconquerable love.  
Eternal God, we worship and adore you. **Amen.**

SONGS OF RESPONSE & PRAISE

BLESSED ASSURANCE / F. 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.

2. Perfect communion,  
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.

**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!

IN CHRIST ALONE / S. TOWNEND & K. GETTY

1. In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
’Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From a life’s first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
’Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I stand.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome and compassionate God,  
with hearts of sorrow, we come before you to confess  
what you already know: we have failed to love and honor you.  
You have revealed yourself to us and for our good you tell us:  
“You shall have no other gods and you shall not bow down to idols.”  
Yet, our habits, desires, and broken lives  
reveal the depths to which we disregard your goodness  
and have given our loyalties to power, money, status, and even people.  
Forgive us and overwhelm us now with knowledge of your all-sufficient love.  
By your love, made fully manifest in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
reorder our lives so that all the words of our mouths  
and meditations of our hearts reflect your steadfast love and mercy.  
In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

Silence for private confession.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

KYRIE ELESION / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison  
Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison  
Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison

Christe, Christe Eleison  
Christe, Christe Eleison  
Christe Eleison, Christe Eleison

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Hear and believe these good words, which have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ: “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” —based on Ezk. 36:26-26

Together **Thanks be to God!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you!**

*\* Children and Middle School students are invited to participate in their in-person programs during the announcements and sermon. Please see the back page for more information about these programs.*

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND OUR OFFERING

During the offertory, we consider all that we have and all that God may be asking us to give. Please take this time to ask God how you might give of your financial gifts, personal time and even vocational calling. There are different ways to give. You may mail your offering to our office address: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101; or make an online payment via our website: [www.gracepasadena.org/give](http://www.gracepasadena.org/give).

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 17:16-34 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them [Silas and Timothy] at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup> And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? <sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” <sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. <sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;  
as even some of your own poets have said,  
“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” <sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” <sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord

Together **Thanks be to God!**

THE MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

Sermon Series: *Our Vision & Core Values*  
Sermon Title: *“As We Grow in the Knowledge of the Gospel”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Having heard the Good News of God’s redemption in Jesus Christ, let us pray with confidence for ourselves, our church, neighbors, and world through the Lord’s Prayer.

All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. **Amen.**



COMMUNION

***GUIDELINES:*** The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.

***DIRECTIONS:*** When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion, which is individually pre-packaged; take the elements back to your seats and partake of them there. Participation is not mandatory. Participate as you feel comfortable.

***CHILDREN:*** Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

COMMUNION & CLOSING SONGS

MORE LOVE TO THEE / E. PRENTISS

1. More love to Thee, O Christ,  
more love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make  
on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee;  
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

2. Once earthly joy I craved,  
sought peace and rest;  
Now Thee alone I seek,  
give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ to Thee;  
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

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. Then shall my latest breath  
whisper Thy praise;  
This be the parting cry  
my heart shall raise;  
Still all my prayer shall be:  
More love, O Christ to Thee;  
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

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.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader      The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Go in peace to love and serve the world.

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

ORDINARY TIME

The longest of the liturgical seasons, Ordinary Time stretches from Pentecost to the start of Advent. Following Pentecost, this season is often referred to as the season of the Holy Spirit. In this season, we turn our attention to the Holy Spirit’s work to re-order and re-new all things by the love of God in Jesus Christ. In other words, we pay attention to the unfolding of God’s story of love in Jesus Christ in our lives, church and world. Jesus has ascended, but he is close and his story is not over. It continues in us! The color for Ordinary Time is green, symbolizing new life and flourishing.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

It is our great joy that you and your family are with us today! We want you to know that all children, no matter their age, are welcome in our worship service. However, some may want to take advantage of our programs for children and youth:

- Throughout the service, we offer a wiggle room for little ones and parents or guardians. The wiggle room is located behind the children’s check-in table in the Community room. The entire service is streamed for parents and guardians.
- During the announcements and sermon, we offer two classes for children. The first, located in the Cliff Benedict room, is for toddlers ages 2-3. The second, located on the back patio, is for children age 4 to 5th grade. When dismissed, please meet leaders in the hallway on the east side. Pick-up will be in the same location. Don’t forget to check in your children at the children’s welcome table.
- Students in middle school are invited to participate in a youth Bible study during announcements and the sermon. Meet Ben in the hallway at the start of announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please visit our website for the latest announcements. Scan the QR code to go to our site!



GRACE PASADENA’S VISION STATEMENT

Grace Pasadena exists to ***Experience*** & ***Extend*** the life-giving grace of God

- ***As*** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- ***In*** every sphere of life
- ***For*** our neighborhoods, city and the world

GRACE PASADENA’S CORE VALUES

- God-Centered Worship** – We seek to be transformed in worship as we experience the wonder of God and respond appropriately
- Gospel-Driven Identity** – We seek a personal experience of the gospel that both humbles us, and assures us that we are more deeply valued and loved by God than we can possibly imagine
- Outward-Facing Community** – We seek the betterment of our city as we extend God’s grace by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- Kingdom-Minded Movement** – We seek to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by creating community and global partnerships that can reach and serve those in need

GIVING & BUDGET

	<u>JAN-DEC ‘20</u>	<u>JAN-AUG ‘21</u>	<u>SEP ‘21</u> <sup>1</sup>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	<b>502,102</b>	<b>289,905</b>	<b>28,869</b>
BUDGETED GIVING _____	<b>468,00</b>	<b>288,00</b>	<b>36,000</b>
DIFFERENCE _____	<b>+34,102</b>	<b>+1,905</b>	<b>-7,131</b>

<sup>1</sup>as of 9/17/21; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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- ***As*** we grow in the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ
  - ***In*** every sphere of life
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ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021