



Grace Pasadena

2nd Sunday of Easter / April 19, 2020

REFLECTIONS

"What we sing becomes the grammar of what we believe." — **Keith Getty**

"Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!

Steal away, steal away home; I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me; he calls me by the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here." — **African-American Spiritual**

"[The] practice of singing the Psalms has been teaching me how to pray, leaning into a more honest conversation with God through loss and healing." — **Sandra McCracken**

"Love and prayer work the same. The neophyte's mistake is to think that they can be sustained simply through good feelings and good intentions....Love and prayer can only be sustained through ritual, routine, and rhythm that incarnates the commitment. That's why the saints and the great spiritual writers have always said that there is only one nonnegotiable rule for prayer: 'Show up! Show up regularly!' The ups and downs of our minds and hearts are of secondary importance." — **Ronald Rolheiser**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Joyful is the sound we make this day!

All Because our Lord lives, we are liberated from doubt and fear.

Leader Thankful is the song we sing!

All Because our Lord lives, we are freed from darkness and despair.

Leader Hopeful is the prayer on our lips!

All Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning!

Leader Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

— based on Psalm 30:5

SONG OF PRAISE

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD / M. 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

EASTER PRAYER OF ADORATION & INVOCATION

Glory to you, O Father:

In love, you sent your Son to redeem and renew the world!

Glory to you, O Christ:

For us and for our salvation you overcame death!

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

You lead us into the truth and seal the love of God in us!

Glory to you, O blessed Trinity, now and forever. *Alleluia! Amen!*

SONGS OF PRAISE

WHO YOU SAY I AM / B. FIELDING & R. MORGAN

1. Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me, Oh His love for me

CHORUS 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

2. Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

CHORUS 2

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

BRIDGE

I am chosen, Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, Not against me
I am who You say I am

ALL YOUR WORKS ARE GOOD (PSALM 104) / S. MCCracken

1. The moon it marks the seasons,
The sun knows when to go down
The ocean holds its creatures,
The river knows its bounds

2. The birds, the trees, the cattle,
And all things great and small
We find our place in creation,
Your hand sustains it all

CHORUS

All Your works are good
All Your works are good
From everlasting, to everlasting
All Your works are good

3. He makes the clouds His chariot,
He wraps Himself in light
He stretches out the heavens,
Like a tent across the sky

4. He knows our every burden,
When darkness veils our eyes
He comes with spring returning,
Bringing death to life

5. As we labor until evening,
There's a message on the wind
Be still and know your Maker,
Be satisfied in Him

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love.
Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions.
Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted.
The troubles of our heart are enlarged; bring us out of our distress.
Consider our affliction and our trouble,
forgive all our sins and fill us with songs of new joy and life. **Amen.** — based on Psalm 25

SONG OF ASSURANCE

PSALM 23 / MUSIC BY B. CHADWICK

1. 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.

2. 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.

*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.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader	This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to goodness. By his wounds we are made whole. Believe and be at peace! — from 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Pt. 2:24
All	Thanks be to God!
Leader	May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
All	And also with you.

* Pass the Peace to those around you, if with others. Text, call, or leave a message! Take a selfie and post to the Grace Pasadena Facebook page or to Instagram. Tag "grace_pasadena" in your Instagram story.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Please check our website for updates and ways to invest in the life of our church and city of Pasadena.

THE OFFERING

If you're accustomed to giving during worship on Sunday mornings, please consider giving online and setting up a recurring or one-time gift. To give online, visit <https://gracepasadena.org/give>. Questions? Email info@gracepasadena.org.

THE OFFERTORY

PSALM 46 (GOD IS OUR REFUGE)

A READING FROM PSALM 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
3 The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.
4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!
5 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
6 He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

THE MORNING LESSON — ACTS 16:19-34 (ESV)

(Context: Paul and Silas have healed a slave girl, who was being tormented by an evil spirit. Healed, her owners can no longer exploit her for their financial gain. Their response is to have Paul and Silas arrested.)

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

THE SERMON - MARC CHOI

2nd Sunday in Easter

Sermon Title: “Songs in the Night”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Having received God's words of love, let us offer our prayers for ourselves and the world to God in confidence. Let us offer our laments with hearts ready to be renewed by the hope and joy of the Resurrection.

Leader: Loving Father, we long for the coming of your kingdom in Jesus Christ, your Son and our risen King. We lament before you because the signs of your Kingdom have not come in fullness.

We lament the heartbreak and sorrow of disease and death. We lament the violence that continues and is compounded in homes and between nations because of the pandemic. **Silence.**

We lament the inequalities and prejudices that stem from our greed, pride, and lack of love. We lament how these injustices have become even more apparent in these times. **Silence.**

We lament the loss of financial security and meaningful employment; we lament the temptation to doubt your goodness and provision for us. **Silence.**

We lament our inability to come together in these days to celebrate milestones and grieve loss side-by-side and face-to-face. **Silence.**

Our hearts are full of lamentation and grief about these and so many other things. Yet, we turn our hearts to you because you are kind. We remember your faithfulness. We remember how you have saved in the past. We remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and proclaim: "Your love has the final word, not sin and death." Fill us with the comfort and hope of your Holy Spirit, and by the same Spirit, we turn to you and sing the words of Psalm 18:

"I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies." **Amen. Alleluia!**

A PRAYER FOR COMMUNION AND AT MEALS DURING SAFER-AT-HOME

"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 experience your gracious hospitality together. In your mercy, make it so quickly. **Amen.**"

CLOSING SONGS

PSALM 126 / BIFROST ARTS

1. Our mouths they were filled, filled with laughter
Our tongues they were loosed, loosed with joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

2. The nations will say, "He has done great things!"
The nations will sing songs of joy
Restore us, O Lord
Restore us, O Lord

*Although we are weeping
Lord, help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them
Your sheaves we will carry
Lord, please do not tarry
All those who sow weeping
Will go out with songs of joy*

GRACE AND PEACE / F. ORTEGA

Grace and peace
Grace and peace
Grace and peace to you
From God our Father

And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ
And the Lord Jesus Christ

BENEDICTION

Leader: Be filled with the Spirit! Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. And give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. — based on Ephesians 5:18-20

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

***Join us for for a short “Social Hour” on BlueJeans with the Meeting ID: 541 682 121
A passcode is required. Contact Marc or anyone on staff for the passcode.***

(For security purposes, the Meeting ID and passcode are updated each week.)