

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader The eternal Father, who loved us and set us free from our sins, who loves us still with that love that will not let us go, and who will love us forever, calls us by his Holy Spirit to worship him today as the only true lover of our souls.

All The Lord stoops to receive the love of our poor hearts. He calls us to remember the depth of his love for us in Christ.

Leader Let us renounce our quarrels, jealousies, and pride, and draw near to our God, the God of peace.

All Let us draw near together as one body and be glad!

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY / J. NEANDER

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near, praise Him in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth; shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how all thy longings have been granted in what He ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee! Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with His love He befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him. Let the “Amen” sound from His people again, gladly for aye we adore Him.

REFRAIN

Praise to the Lord, O my soul
All ye who hear, praise Him

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader As we answer God’s invitation to draw near, let us remember what our Lord taught us by teaching us to pray “Our Father in heaven”:

All By teaching us to pray “Our Father in Heaven”, Jesus Christ, our Lord, taught us to draw near to God with holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father able and ready to help us, and that we should pray with and for others, offering up our desires to God for things agreeable to his will in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

Leader Full of the Holy Spirit, let us draw near to God with confidence!

—based on Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A’s 98, 100

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

EVIDENCE / J. 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

COME YE SINNERS / 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O gracious and gentle and condescending God, God of peace, Father of mercy, God of all comfort: we confess before you the evil of our hearts; we acknowledge that we are too inclined toward anger, covetousness, and revenge, to ambition and pride, to control and domination, which give rise to quarrels, discord and bitter feelings between others and us. Too often have we thus both offended and grieved you, O long-suffering Father. Forgive us this sin and fill us with your peace. By your Spirit, show us how to be your peacemakers and lead us in the way of life. Amen.

— based on James 5; Mt. 5:9

(Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

HOLY FOREVER / C. TOMLIN

1. A thousand generations falling down in worship To sing the song of ages to the Lamb And all who’ve gone before us and all who will believe Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

CHORUS

And the angels cry, Holy
All creation cries, Holy
You are lifted high, Holy, Holy forever
Hear your people sing, Holy
To the King of Kings, Holy
You will always be, Holy, Holy forever

2. If you’ve been forgiven and if you’ve been redeemed Sing the song forever to the Lamb If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name Sing the song forever to the Lamb We’ll sing the song forever and amen

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader These are the good words of our God: “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean... And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.” As you have been forgiven, now forgive one another and cast aside all quarrels, covetousness, and judgments.

All Thanks be to God!

— based on Ez. 36:25-26; James 4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Jesus, you said, “Be merciful as your Father is merciful; love your enemies and do good to them.” We hear your call; help us to follow. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, you said, “Love one another, as I love you; there is no greater love than this, to lay down your life for your friends.” We hear your call; help us to follow. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus, you said, “Go to people everywhere and make them my disciples, and I will be with you always, to the end of time.” We hear your call; help us to follow. For this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Together And also with you!

* Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the sermon; children return for Communion.

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you’re visiting with us for the first time, please fill out an information card (available at the welcome table) and drop it into the offering box or give it to a church staff member. For more announcements, see the back of the bulletin or visit our website.

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

*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 give via our website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE READING

James 4:1-12 (ESV)

¹ What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE

Ben Ewen

“Drawing Near to God”
James: The Gospel-Integrated Life

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. Receive the bread and juice from the servers. Pre-packaged elements, which are gluten-free are available in the line closest to the stage. 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 PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

For those searching: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and lead me to the reality of who you are. Give me not only understanding, but also an experience of your love and presence. Amen.

For faith and belief: Lord Jesus, I am weak and sinful, but you call me beloved and accepted. I thank you for taking my place in death and offering forgiveness and renewal. I hear you calling, and so I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Amen.

For those struggling with sin: Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, to ask for help, and to follow you faithfully in life. Amen.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS / H.W. BAKER

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His,
and He is mine for-e-ver.

2. Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul He leadeth;
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love He sought me;
and on His shoulder gently laid and
home rejoicing brought me.

4. In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
with Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL / H. SPAFFORD

1. When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul!”

REFRAIN

It is well (*it is well*)
with my soul (*with my soul*)
It is well, it is well with my soul

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded
my helpless estate
and hath shed His own blood
for my soul!

3. My sin, oh,
the bliss of this glorious thought:
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!

4. And Lord, haste the day
when the faith shall be sight;
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul!

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us,
and the love of God, which enables us to love all,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body,
make us eager to obey the will of God until we meet again,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. —based on 2 Cor. 13:13

All Thanks be to God! Amen!

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

We observe a season of Ordinary Time from Pentecost Sunday until the start of Advent. From the Latin “ordus” we look to the Spirit to re-order our lives according to the love of Jesus Christ. As the season of the Spirit, we especially remember the lives and actions of Jesus’ followers. We think about how the first Christians lived their lives, and how we should live ours today. This season of Ordinary Time takes up half the year and it doesn’t offer big exciting festivals such as Christmas or Easter. It is a season in which we learn to recognize the presence of God in the day-to-day. The color of the season is green, symbolizing new life.

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **8/20: Today:** Calling all current and potential city group leaders and hosts! You’re invited to a brief info session about the upcoming year of groups. The meeting will start 15 minutes after the service at the church office. See Pastor Ben for more details.
- **8/27:** Current and potential volunteers for our Children’s Ministry are invited to a training session before the service at 8:15am. The training will take place on the patio and light refreshments will be offered. Email families@gracepasadena.org for more information.
- **9/17:** Adult Discipleship Seminars! This fall, we’ll be exploring the different genres of Scripture and how knowing the genres can deepen our understanding of God’s words to us and its beauty. Seminars meet on 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, and 10/22. We’ll meet at 8:45am in the Cliff Benedict Room. See Pastor Marc for details.

Scan the QR code below for more details, other announcements and contact information!



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

	JAN-JUL ‘23*	AUG ‘23*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$267,225	\$19,289
BUDGETED GIVING	293,000	44,000
DIFFERENCE	-25,775	-24,711

* as of 8/17/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“I sang and I danced like I did as a young girl
Hosea, Hosea
I am a slave and a harlot no more
You washed me clean like a summer rain
And you set me free with that ball and chain
Hosea, I threw away the key
I’ll never leave”

ANDREW PETERSON | “HOSEA”

“The Church-the body of Christ-is the place where God invites us to renew our loves, reorient our desires, and retrain our appetites. Indeed, isn’t the church where we are are nourished by the Word, where we ‘eat the Word’ and receive the bread of life?”

JAMES K. SMITH | YOU ARE WHAT YOU LOVE

“A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER | LIFE TOGETHER

AUGUST 20, 2023
ORDINARY TIME