

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Look at the birds of the air:
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns
and yet God provides for them.

All **May our hearts turn in trust to our faithful God!**

Leader Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow:
they neither toil nor spin
and yet the kings of the world are not arrayed like them.

All **May our eyes be open to the goodness of our God!**

Leader Are you anxious about what you will do today or tomorrow,
or what you will eat or drink or wear?

All **We come as we are,
seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
remembering all these things will be added to us!**

Leader Let us worship our God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and be glad!
– based on Mt. 6, James 4-5

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

SING TO THE LORD (PSALM 96) / MUSIC: B. CHADWICK

Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth
Sing to the Lord a new song
Sing to the Lord, all the earth

For great is the Lord
Most worthy of praise

For great is our God
Most worthy of praise
Let the whole earth sing
To the Name above all names

PRAYER OF ADORATION

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS / T. CHISHOLM

1. Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not;
as Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

3. Pardon for sin
and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide,
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside.

CHORUS
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed
Thy hand hath provided,
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars
in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

PROVIDE FOR ME / R. DELMORE

Maker of the heavens
Maker of the earth
I look up to the mountains
Where does my help come from?

It comes from You, it comes from You
It comes from You
My strength and my shield

You will save me in times of trouble
You will hold me in times of doubt
You will provide for me
Lover of my soul

You will provide for me

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you came to serve.
As you came to a blind man and gave him sight,
come to us in our darkness and show us the things we cannot see.
As you came to a man tormented in his mind
and gave him peace and healing, come to us in our tensions and make us whole.
As you came to Lazarus, who was dead,
and brought him from the grave, come to us in our deadness
and bring us to real life now with our living Lord.
Lord Jesus Christ, you came not to be served but to serve.
But we see life the other way round: to get where we do not give,
to exploit whom we have not helped, to use what we have not earned.
As you came to a dying thief and promised him paradise,
come to us now in forgiveness and give us hope.
In your name, Lord, we pray. Amen.
(Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

ALL YOUR WORKS ARE GOOD / 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

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

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

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning
all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my
strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my
sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my
transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

All **Thanks be to God!**
– From Psalm 32:3-5

MINISTRY MOMENT

*Let’s turn our attention to Caroline Huxell, the director of Grace’s Children and Families Ministry, about the ministry’s needs and plans, as well as ways we can join the work.

Children & Families Ministry

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 4:13-5:6 (ESV)
4:13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre
“The Upside Down Community”
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

EVERY GRAIN OF SAND / BOB DYLAN

In the time of my confession, in the hour of my deepest need
When the pool of tears beneath my feet flood every newborn seed
There's a dying voice within me reaching out somewhere
Toiling in the danger and in the morals of despair

Don't have the inclination to look back on any mistake
Like Cain, I now behold this chain of events that I must break
In the fury of the moment I can see the master's hand
In every leaf that trembles, and in every grain of sand

Oh, the flowers of indulgence and the weeds of yesteryear
Like criminals, they have choked the breath of conscience and good cheer
The sun beat down upon the steps of time to light the way
To ease the pain of idleness and the memory of decay

I gaze into the doorway of temptation's angry flame
And every time I pass that way, I always hear my name
Then onward in my journey, I come to understand
That every hair is numbered like every grain of sand

I have gone from rags to riches in the sorrow of the night
In the violence of a summer's dream, in the chill of a wintry light
In the bitter dance of loneliness, fading into space
In the broken mirror of innocence on each forgotten face

I hear the ancient footsteps like the motion of the sea
Sometimes I turn, there's someone there, other time it's only me
I am hanging in the balance of a perfect finished plan
Like every sparrow falling, like every grain of sand

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

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

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

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader

Go out into the world in peace: have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; help the suffering; honor all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you forever.
—based on 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Thess. 5:13-22; 1 Pt. 2:17

All Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **9/10:** Sign up for a City Group before or after our service. All City Groups begin the week of the September 10. Email citygroups@gracepasadena.org.
- **9/10:** College students are invited to a Faith & Film night (7-10pm). See Pastor Ben.
- **9/13:** The Wednesday Morning Women’s Study (9:30-10:30am) begins! Contact women@gracepasadena.org for more information.
- **9/15:** Youth Group Field Day at Victory Park from 7-10pm. See Pastor Ben.
- **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.

Scan the QR code below for more details, other announcements and contact information!
If you are in any kind of need, please speak to one of our deacons or email mercy@gracepasadena.org.



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	\$25,334
BUDGETED GIVING _____	293,000	44,000
DIFFERENCE _____	-25,775	-18,666

** as of 8/24/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors*



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Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

JEREMIAH 9:23-24

[Let] those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

1 CORINTHIANS 7:30-31

“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame” (Pr. 18:13). The fool responds without really hearing, with no careful thought or consideration. Speaking in haste is shameful. When we don’t listen, we disclose a low regard for the other’s words and a high regard for our own.

TED TRIPP | *LISTENING AT HOME*

“Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.”

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

AUGUST 27, 2023
ORDINARY TIME