

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.
All Christ dwells among us and is one with us.
Leader Highest of all creation, he lives among the least
and journeys with all who are lost in the wilderness of this world.
All He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.
Leader Come now, all who thirst, and drink the water of life.
All Come now, all who hunger, and be filled with good things.
Leader Come now, all who seek, and find the living God, the desire beneath
all our desires!

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY / R. HEBER

1. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

4. Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and evermore shall be

3. Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,
only Thou art holy,
there is none beside Thee;
perfect in power, in love and purity.

PRAYER OF PRAISE & ADORATION

All: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we give you praise for calling us into your presence.
We give thanks to your name and exalt you for you have restored us to life!
We may cry through the night, but your joy comes with the morning.
We may wander in the wilderness, but you find us and bring us home to you.
You hear us, O God, and you are gracious in our distress.
You turn our mourning into dancing and our souls cannot be silent!
O God, our Maker and Redeemer, we give thanks to you! Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

10,000 REASONS / M. REDMAN

Chorus
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
1. The sun comes up,
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes
2. You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of exodus and wilderness, God of refuge and help,
hear us now as we make our confession to you.
In times of temptation we forget what you have done for us.
You give us everything we need, yet we often remain unsatisfied;
you trust us to care for creation, yet we often abuse that trust
and spoil what we have been given.
You show us the way we are to follow, yet we often continue on the path
of self-indulgence and self-centeredness.
Forgive us, we pray.
We ask for your direction, your patience, your love,
in the name of Jesus Christ, who, in spite of his temptations,
was faithful to your saving Word. Amen.
(Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

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

WORDS OF COMFORT & PEACE

Leader Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgres-
sion for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger
forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have
compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast
all our sins into the depths of the sea. – Micah 7:18-19
All Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Our Father, giver of all that is good, we pray for peace in the world,
that a spirit of reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples.
May the church be faithful in its witness to the gospel to the ends of
the earth. Show us how we as Grace Pasadena can extend your peace
in our city and neighborhoods. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Jesus Christ, friend of the downcast, we pray for the poor, the
persecuted, the sick, the lonely and all who suffer; for refugees,
prisoners, and all in danger because of storms and floods. Forget
not the students and educators for whom the start of the school year
has been difficult and full of heartache. We mourn with those who
mourn in Lahaina, Jacksonville, Johannesburg, and in all places that
know the sting of sin and death. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader Holy Spirit, giver of life, we pray for those whom we have injured or
offended. Restore what is broken in this congregation, in our homes,
in our places of work, and in our neighborhoods. Holy Spirit, give
us grace to amend our lives and to be peacemakers. Make us, your
people, one as you are one with the Father and the Son. 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: 16 N Marengo Ave Ste 609, Pasadena, CA 91101; or
give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:9-14 (ESV)

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John
in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the
heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a
voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”
¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the
wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals,
and the angels were ministering to him.
¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel
of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.”

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God!

MORNING MESSAGE Marc Choi

“Wilderness Faith”

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 appropri-
ate 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

BY THE MARK / D. RAWLINGS & G. WELCH

1. When I cross over
I will shout and sing
I will know my savior
By the mark where the nails have been

2. A man of riches
May claim a crown of jewels
But the king of heaven
Can be told from the prince of fools

3. On Calvary Mountain
Where they made him suffer so
All my sin was paid for
A long, long time ago

Chorus
By the mark where the nails have been
By the sign upon his precious skin
I will know my savior when I come to him
By the mark where the nails have been

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING / R. ROBINSON

1. Come Thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I’m fixed upon it,
mount of Thy redeeming love!

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood

3. Oh to grace how great a debtor,
daily I’m constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to Thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, oh take and seal it;
seal it for Thy courts above

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader

In your journeys to and fro God direct you; in your happiness and pleasure God bless you; in care, anxiety, or trouble God sustain you; in peril and in danger God protect you. The grace of God be with you all, now and always. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

- **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 explore 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!



THE GRACE PASADENA APP

Use the app to listen to sermons, access an audio Bible, view and register for upcoming events (including City Groups), set up giving and more! Use the QR codes below.



For Android Phones



For iOS Phones

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	\$27,110
BUDGETED GIVING _____	293,000	44,000
DIFFERENCE _____	-25,775	-16,890

* as of 9/1/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors



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“To be commanded to love God at all, let alone in the wilderness, is like being commanded to be well when we are sick, to sing for joy when we are dying of thirst, to run when our legs are broken. But this is the first and great commandment nonetheless. Even in the wilderness - especially in the wilderness - you shall love him.”

FREDERICK BUECHNER | *A ROOM CALLED REMEMBER*

““The desert is beautiful,” added the little prince. And that was true. I have always loved the desert. One sits down on a desert sand dune, sees nothing, hears nothing. Yet through the silence something throbs, and gleams...

‘What makes the desert beautiful,’ said the little prince, ‘is that somewhere it hides a well.’”

ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY | *THE LITTLE PRINCE*

“There are beautiful and lasting gifts to be found in the wilderness places of our lives if we are brave enough to go there...But two things are needed in order to receive these gifts: patience to wait for God’s timing in all things until he sends the needed rain upon our souls. And realistic expectations...

The journey into the wilderness will require shedding just about everything that you always thought you needed. But it will also give you everything. The Holy Way will open up right there in the wilderness and those who are courageous enough to walk in that Way will obtain that which is everlasting.”

RUTH HALEY BARTON

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
ORDINARY TIME