

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
**All though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**  
Leader Come, behold the works of the Lord and hear our God say:  
**All “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”** – from Ps. 46

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

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	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
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	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!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

**All:** 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:  
behind the ability to think and reason, behind all understanding of the truth.  
Eternal God, you are the power behind the cross of Christ:  
behind the weakness, the torture, and the death, behind unconquerable love.  
Eternal God, we worship and adore you. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

HOW GREAT THOU ART / C. BOBERG

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.	2. And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.
<b>CHORUS</b> Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art, how great Thou art. (repeat)	3. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow,in humble adoration, and there proclaim, “My God, how great Thou art!”

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME / B. FIELDING; B. LIGERTWOOD

1. You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ	What a wonderful Name it is The Name of Jesus
<b>CHORUS 1</b> What a beautiful Name it is What a beautiful Name it is The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a beautiful Name it is Nothing compares to this What a beautiful Name it is The Name of Jesus	<b>BRIDGE</b> Death could not hold You The veil tore before You You silence the boast of sin and grave The heavens are roaring The praise of Your glory For You are raised to life again You have no rival, You have no equal Now and forever God You reign Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory Yours is the Name above all Names
2. You didn’t want heaven without us So Jesus You brought heaven down My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now?	<b>CHORUS 3</b> What a powerful Name it is What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a powerful Name it is Nothing compares to this What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus
<b>CHORUS 2</b> What a wonderful Name it is What a wonderful Name it is The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a wonderful Name it is Nothing compares to this	

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of your Name. **Amen.** (Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

PSALM 46/ MUSIC: BIFROST ARTS

1. God is our refuge, our strength and our shield An ever present help We would not fear, though the earth gives away And the mountains crash into the sea	<b>CHORUS 2</b> There is a river whose streams will make glad The city of our most high King God is within her and she will not fail Listen and hear the lord say: Be still and know that I am God
<b>CHORUS</b> There is a river whose streams will make glad The city of our most high King God is within her and she will not fail He helps her at the break of the day	3. Come let us see what the Lord has done The ruins he brings to the earth He makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth He shatters the bow and the spear
2. Nations in uproar, men’s kingdom they fall He speaks and the earth melts away The worst we imagine, the strongest of storms Our Fortress it will still remain	<b>ENDING</b> Be still and know and that I am God Be still and know and that I am God Be still and know and that I am God...

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader	Here are words you may trust: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life, he says, “Your sins are forgiven.” He also says, “Follow me.” Now to the one who rules all worlds, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.
<b>All</b>	<b>Thanks be to God!</b> —based on 1 Tim. 1:15, 17

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader	May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
<b>Together</b>	<b>And also with you!</b>

\* Children ages 2 to 5th grade are invited to participate in our children’s program during the  
sermon; children return for Communion. Middle School students are also invited to join Pastor  
Ben for Sunday School.

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & 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 give via our website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Esther 1:1-5; 10-13; 2:1-4; 8-10; 15-18 (ESV)

<sup>1:1</sup> Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia  
over 127 provinces, <sup>2</sup> in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in  
Susa, the citadel, <sup>3</sup> in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials  
and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the  
provinces were before him, <sup>4</sup> while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the  
splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days. <sup>5</sup> And when these days  
were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa the citadel, both  
great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king’s  
palace.  
<sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he com-  
manded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the  
seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, <sup>11</sup> to bring Queen  
Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the  
princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at. <sup>12</sup> But Queen Vashti refused to come  
at the king’s command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged,  
and his anger burned within him.

<sup>2:1</sup> After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered  
Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. <sup>2</sup> Then the  
king’s young men who attended him said, “Let beautiful young virgins be sought out  
for the king. <sup>3</sup> And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to  
gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody  
of Hegai, the king’s eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be  
given them. <sup>4</sup> And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of  
Vashti.” This pleased the king, and he did so.

<sup>8</sup> So when the king’s order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young  
women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken  
into the king’s palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.  
<sup>9</sup> And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her  
with her cosmetics and her portion of food, and with seven chosen young women  
from the king’s palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in  
the harem. <sup>10</sup> Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had  
commanded her not to make it known.

<sup>15</sup> When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who  
had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except  
what Hegai the king’s eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther  
was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her. <sup>16</sup> And when Esther was taken to  
King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of  
Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, <sup>17</sup> the king loved Esther more than all the  
women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that  
he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup> Then the  
king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther’s feast. He also  
granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.

Reader	This is the Word of the Lord.
<b>All</b>	<b>Thanks be to God!</b>

MORNING MESSAGE

Marc Choi

“Embracing Complexity, Finding Wisdom, Finding Kindness”  
Sermon Series: The Good News According to Esther

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Jesus, our Good Shepherd, give us eyes to see those who are overlooked and forgotten, and feet quick to walk alongside them. For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

All  
Leader Holy Spirit, soften the hearts of your people, so we can know when we are following rules without true love for you or neighbor and renew us in our zeal for you. For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

All  
Leader God our Father, protect those in our streets who are in danger of harm from others and raise up helpers to comfort, heal, and restore those who have suffered such harm. For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.

SONGS OF RESPONSE & CELEBRATION

**IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE / W. CHALMERS SMITH**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unchanging,  
and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting,  
Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains  
of goodness and love.

3. To all, life Thou givest,  
to both great and small,  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all,  
We blossom and flourish  
as leaves on a tree,  
And wither and perish,  
but naught changeth Thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory,  
Thou dwellest in light,  
Thine angels adore thee,  
all veiling their sight,  
All laud we would render,  
O help us to see ‘tis only the splendor  
of light hideth thee.

**I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER / P. BUSS**

1. I will sing of my Redeemer  
and His wondrous love to me;  
On the cruel cross He suffered,  
from the curse to set me free.

2. I will tell the wondrous story,  
how my lost estate to save,  
in His boundless love and mercy,  
He the ransom freely gave.

3. I will praise my dear Redeemer,  
His triumphant power I’ll tell,  
how the victory He giveth  
over sin, and death, and hell.

**CHORUS**  
*Sing, O sing, of my Redeemer,  
with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon,  
paid the debt, and made me free.*

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader God be in your head and in your understanding. God be in your eyes and in your looking. God be in your mouth and in your speaking. God be in your heart and in your thinking. God be at your end and at your departing. Go forth, remembering who you are and to whom you belong.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

All

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT  
CHRISTMAS  
**EPIPHANY**  
LENT  
EASTER  
PENTECOST  
ORDINARY TIME

Epiphany follows Christ’s birth and points us out from that moment to the world. The Magi traveled from afar to worship Jesus, and their eyes were opened to who God is and what he is doing. The Light is dawning in the darkness, drawing in all peoples. As Philip Reinders says: “Epiphany calls us to live God’s mission, announcing the good news of Christ’s arrival to every culture and to those who live across the street, bearing the light of Jesus to the nations and to those who share a home with us. We, the church, are sent out as the manifestation of Jesus to a watching world.” May we, with eyes wide open, see and celebrate the fact that Jesus is the light of the world—and of our lives too.

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **2/10:** Monthly Women’s Bible Study @ 6PM
- **2/12:** Super Cereal Bowl Family Event @ 9:15AM
- **2/22:** Ash Wednesday Service. Details TBD.
- **2/24 - 2/25 :** Men’s Retreat. Contact 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-DEC ‘22	DEC ‘22*	JAN ‘23*
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	\$546,803	\$132,759	\$21,944
BUDGETED GIVING _____	501,000	78,000	--
DIFFERENCE _____	+45,803	+54,759	--

\* as of 2/2/2022; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors; 2023 budget will be finalized and posted in the next few weeks



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“Some days I am not sure if my faith is riddled with doubt, or whether, graciously, my doubt is riddled with faith. And yet I continue to live in a world the way a religious person lives in the world; I keep living in a world that I know to be enchanted, and not left alone. I doubt; I am uncertain; I am restless, prone to wander. And yet glimmers of holy keep interrupting my gaze.”

LAUREN WINNER | *STILL: NOTES ON A MID-FAITH CRISIS*

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 5, 2023