

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.  
**All Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.**  
Leader There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.  
Let us lift up our voices and join the chorus!  
**All May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer.**

— from Ps. 19

SONG OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS / E. MOTE

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness!  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
**CHORUS**  
*On Christ the solid rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*  
2. When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.  
3. His oath, His covenant, His blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

**All:** O God, you summon the day to dawn,  
you teach the morning to waken the earth.  
For you the valleys shall sing for joy,  
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
For you the kings of the earth shall bow,  
the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy.  
Your love and mercy shall last forever,  
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, great is your name,  
and great is your love! **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE & RESPONSE

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING / WORDS: ST. FRANCIS

1. All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
O, praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O, praise Him! O, praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav’n along,  
O, praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice  
O, praise Him! O, praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
3. And all Ye men of tender heart,  
forgiving others take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on Him cast your care,  
O, praise Him! O, praise Him!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All:** Most Merciful God,  
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.  
We humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy.  
We have not loved you with a pure heart,  
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
We have not done justice, loved kindness,  
or walked humbly with you, our God.  
Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.  
In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.  
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.  
Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us.  
Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us  
with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** —based on Ps. 51:10-12  
(Silence is kept together.)

SONG OF ASSURANCE

HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE / ROOTS WORSHIP COLLECTIVE

1. Holy Spirit, light divine  
Shine upon this heart of mine  
Chase the shades of night away  
Turn my darkness into day  
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come  
**CHORUS**  
*O Holy Spirit, presence of God  
Giver of comfort, power and love  
I give You my heart, light divine*  
2. Holy Spirit, power divine  
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine  
Long has sin without control  
Held dominion o’er my soul  
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come  
3. Holy Spirit, all divine  
Dwell within this heart of mine  
Cast down every idol throne  
Reign supreme and reign alone  
Holy Spirit come, Holy Spirit come

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope,  
this is God’s Word of grace: We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are  
loved. This gift we have from the Father, and the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit!  
**All Thanks be to God!**

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. 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 2:5-15 (ESV)

<sup>2:5</sup> Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, <sup>6</sup> who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. <sup>7</sup> He was bringing up Hadasah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter. <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>11</sup> And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her.  
<sup>12</sup> Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women— <sup>13</sup> when the young woman went in to the king in this way, she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king’s palace. <sup>14</sup> In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king’s eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.  
<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.

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Ben Ewen

“Favor Winning Beauty”  
Sermon Series: The Good News According to Esther

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Lord of our doubts,  
our fears often loom larger than you.  
Give us courage to walk through them,  
that we might know freedom in your strong arms.  
O Lord, we pray:  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**  
**All**  
Leader Lord of our chaos,  
our broken world spirals out of control.  
Give us courage to move into its darkness,  
walking in your justice, love, and humility.  
Use the work, prayers, tears, and hopes  
of your church to your ends of restoration.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**  
**All**  
Leader Lord of our fears,  
we pray for our brothers and sisters in deep waters:  
refugees, the poor, the weak, the lonely, the suffering.  
We pray for the countries and people of Turkey and Syria –  
O Lord, have mercy!  
Be near to all who cry out in pain and heartbreak.  
For this, O Lord, we pray:  
**All Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

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

**BONHOEFFER’S PRAYER / MUSIC: BIFROST ARTS**

Lord, early in the morning  
We cry unto You  
In You there is light, when I cannot see  
In You there is love, patience and peace

Lord, I do not understand Your ways  
But You know the way for me

**AARON’S BLESSING / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA**

May the Lord bless you and keep you  
**May the Lord bless you and keep you**  
May the Lord make His face to shine on you  
**May the Lord make His face to shine on you**

And be gracious to you  
**And be gracious to you**  
May the Lord lift His countenance on you  
**May the Lord lift His countenance on you**  
May the Lord lift His countenance on you  
**May the Lord lift His countenance on you**  
**May He keep you in perfect peace**  
**May He keep you in perfect peace**

THE BENEDICTION & SENDING

Leader            The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Go from here in peace, bearing witness to the good news of Jesus Christ without shame, for it is the power of God for everyone who believes!

All                    **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT	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.
CHRISTMAS	
<b>EPIPHANY</b>	
LENT	
EASTER	
PENTECOST	
ORDINARY TIME	

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **2/12:** Super Cereal Bowl Family Event @ 9:15AM
  - **2/22:** Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30PM at the Church Office
  - **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

	<u>JAN-DEC ‘22</u>	<u>JAN ‘23*</u>	<u>FEB ‘23*</u>
OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS _____	<b>\$546,803</b>	<b>\$28,162</b>	<b>\$7,285</b>
BUDGETED GIVING _____	<b>501,000</b>	--	--
DIFFERENCE _____	<b>+45,803</b>	--	--

*\* as of 2/10/2022; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors; 2023 budget will be finalized and posted in the next few weeks*



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“Japanese often use the expression *shikata-ga-nai* (there is nothing you can do) as a fatalistic response to a given circumstance. They assume that circumstance is all there is; they face that *shikata-ga-nai* with stoic resignation. But the Christian God offers a reality far greater, a possibility of the infinite breaking through, even though the fallen world is cursed and operates within the limitations of a natural, closed mechanism.”

**MAKOTO FUJIMURA | SILENCE & BEAUTY**

“The pinnacle of beauty, the beauty toward which all creatures point, is God. He is supreme being, supreme truth, supreme goodness, and also the apex of unchanging beauty.”

**HERMAN BAVINCK**

“Beauty can be consoling, disturbing, sacred, profane; it can be exhilarating, appealing, inspiring, chilling. It can affect us in an unlimited variety of ways. Yet it is never viewed with indifference: beauty demands to be noticed; it speaks to us directly like the voice of an intimate friend. If there are people who are indifferent to beauty, then it is surely because they do not perceive it.”

**ROGER SCRUTON**

6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
FEBRUARY 12, 2023