

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Let us worship God, who has done great things.
All We rejoice in our God, who journeys with us and makes a way through the desert of this world.

Leader Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

All We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Leader Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
We praise God for the grace that has saved us.

All Alleluia! We rejoice! —based on Isa. 43:19-21

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.

4. When He shall come
with trumpet sound,
O, may I then in Him be found!
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O God, we lift up our voices and praise your name!
In creation you fashion us in your image,
in Christ you reveal to us your love,
through the Holy Spirit you welcome us into the fellowship of believers;
we bow in gratitude before you.
We constantly distort your image, but still you restore it.
We daily betray your love, but still you extend it.
We often disrupt fellowship, but still you bless it.
Come unto us at this time and in this place, O Lord,
that your image in us might be revealed, your love for us returned,
and our fellowship in Christ renewed.
To you be all honor and glory and praise! Amen.

SONGS 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

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!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ,
was tempted in every way, yet was without sin,
we confess before you our own sinfulness;
we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;
we have compromised with evil;
we have doubted your power to protect us.
Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness.
Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways
and delight in doing your will. Amen.

Silence is kept together

SONG OF ASSURANCE

KYRIE ELEISON / MUSIC: F. ORTEGA

Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie, Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Eleison
Kyrie Elei—son

Christe, Christe Eleison
Christe, Christe Eleison
Christe Eleison
Christe Elei—son

WORDS OF COMFORT & ASSURANCE

Leader The Lord of promise has declared: “I will give you a new heart and
put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.”

Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God’s promises are “Yes.” Hear
the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed,
healed, and renewed!

—based on Ezk. 36:26; 2 Cor. 1:20

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 invited to join Pastor Ben.

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.

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 15 (ESV)

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: c“Fear not,
Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O
Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my
house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me
no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the
word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own
son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward
heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to
him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to
him as righteousness.

⁷ And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chal-
deans to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to
know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old,
a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young
pigeon.” ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over
against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey
came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dread-
ful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for
certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be
servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring
judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with
great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be
buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth genera-
tion, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and
a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a
covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of
Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizz-
ites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites,
the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Brannin Pitre

“To Know For Sure”
Sermon Series: Characteristics of Change

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Mighty God, in this season of Lent, give your Church the courage
to give up her preoccupation with herself and turn her toward your
world in love. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, and help us to
face the cost of proclaiming his salvation. For this, O Lord, we pray:
All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Prince of Peace, in this season of Lent, give your world the grace to
give up war, bitterness, hatred, jealousy, quarrels, and strife. Turn
the hearts of all peoples to yourself, and come to reign over us. For
this, O Lord, we pray:

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Merciful Spirit, in this season of Lent, help us to give up our
selfishness and to reach out in care toward the sick, the lonely, and
those who suffer. May they know the healing touch of the wounded
hands of Jesus and the light of his presence. We pray, too, for our
city ministry partners: Door of Hope, Elizabeth House, and Olive
Crest. Provide all that they need and show us how we can join
their work to love our city. 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. 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

IN EVERY AGE (PSALM 90) / MUSIC: BIFROST ARTS

In every age, O Lord,
You have been our refuge. (2x)

1. You turn men back to dust,
saying, “Return, O children of men.”
For a thousand years in Your sight
are as yesterday,
Now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night

2. Teach us to number our days aright,
That we may gain wisdom of heart.
Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on Your servants.

3. Fill us at daybreak
with your kindness,
That we may shout for joy
and gladness all our days.
And may the gracious care
of the Lord, our God, be ours.
Prosper the work of our hands for us!
Prosper the work of our hands!

In every age, O Lord,
You have been our refuge. (2x)

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 Be on guard! Be alert! The Lord is coming! And may Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
PENTECOST
ORDINARY TIME

From the church’s earliest days, Lent was a time of preparation for Easter, or the Resurrection. It was celebrated not on Sunday, the Lord’s Day, but also in a special festival of the Resurrection. As we look forward to the Resurrection, Lent is traditionally focused on repentance. Speaking biblically, to repent means to make a change in our attitudes, words, and lifestyles. The Christian life in its totality is a life of repentance. Each day, we are to turn away more and more from sin and self-centeredness and more and more towards our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to experience true freedom and rest.

ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **3/19:** Baptism + Lord’s Supper Workshop for Parents/Families @ 9:15AM
Chili Cook-Off after the service!
- **3/20:** College Faith and Film night
- **4/2:** Start of Holy Week. Stay tuned 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 _____	\$546,803	\$28,162	\$20,940
BUDGETED GIVING _____	501,000	--	--
DIFFERENCE _____	+45,803	--	--

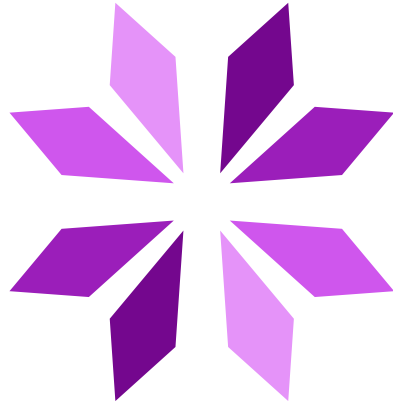
** as of 2/23/2023; figures exclude directed gifts from outside donors; 2023 budget will be finalized and posted in the next few weeks*



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And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 (NIV)

Sometimes I think of Abraham
How one star he saw had been lit for me
He was a stranger in this land
And I am that, no less than he
And on this road to righteousness
Sometimes the climb can be so steep
I may falter in my steps
But never beyond Your reach

RICH MULLINS | FROM “SOMETIMES BY STEP”

THE 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 26, 2023