

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader Hear the word of the LORD, you nations;
proclaim it in distant coastlands:
All **He who scattered Israel will gather them
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.**

Jeremiah 31:10

SONG OF PRAISE

BETHOU MY VISION / TRANS. MARY E. BYRNE

1. Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light.
2. Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.
4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

from The Book of Common Prayer

Leader O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life
of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus
Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SONGS OF PRAISE

HOLY SPIRIT, LIGHT DIVINE / ANDREW REED; PEPPER CHOPLIN

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

YET NOT I, BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME / J. ROBINSON, R. THOMPSON, M. FARREN

1. What gift of grace
is Jesus my Redeemer
There is no more for heaven
now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness,
and freedom
My steadfast love,
my deep and boundless peace

CHORUS 1

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine,
I can sing all is mine
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

2. The night is dark
but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

CHORUS 2

To this I hold,
my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley
He will lead
Oh the night has been won,
and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader Come, Holy Spirit
The Spirit of truth
Enter into our cold hearts
Warm them with your Love
May we be like the trees
That are planted beside the waters
That we may be watered with the Holy Spirit
Day by day

—Adapted from a traditional hymn
sung in the Sotho language of
South Africa and Lesotho

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader ⁷ In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

GOODNESS OF GOD

1. I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
And all my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh I will sing of the goodness of God

CHORUS

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh I will sing of the goodness of God
2. I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In my darkest night
You were close like no other

Ephesians 1:7-8

I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
Oh I have lived in the goodness of God

BRIDGE

Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me
With my life laid down,
I'm surrendered now,
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after,
it's running after me

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

MINISTRY MOMENT

Testimonies: The Maljanian & Sierota Families

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 place your offering in the blue box at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings; mail your offering to 254 N Lake Ave #287, Pasadena, CA 91101; or give via our app (iOS and Android) or website: www.gracepasadena.org/give.

OFFERING SONG

HOW LONG / BIROST ARTS

1. How long? Will You turn
Your face away?
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim
way - How long?

2. How long 'til Your children
find their rest?
How long 'til You draw them
to Your breast?
We go on holding to Your promises -
How long?

Chorus
*'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye
'Til we see our home*

descending from the sky
Do we wait in vain?
Jesus, give us hope again!
3. How long 'til Your word
will still the storm?
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?
How we groan 'til You snatch us from
the thorns - How long?
4. How long? Sweet the dawn
that ends the race.
How long? Weak our hearts
but strong our legs.
Looking on - great that cloud
of witnesses! How long?

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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

MORNING MESSAGE

The Word Became Flesh

Nick Locke

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 and return to your seat. Communion will be taken together after the Song of Communion.

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 SONG

KING OF KINGS

COMMUNION ACCLAMATION

Leader Therefore we declare the great mystery of our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament

All **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

Leader These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

CLOSING SONG

DOXOLOGY / T. KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Leader Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Giving Statements | Contact Jessica at info@gracepasadena.org if you do not receive your statement by January 31.

Congregational Dinner | January 25 | Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a time of fellowship and vision casting for our year ahead! More details to follow.

Epiphany Prayer Guide | Scan the QR code for a digital version. Hard copies will be available next Sunday!



"In Christ two natures met to be your cure."

GEORGE HERBERT (1593-1633)

"For this He clothed Himself with man. For this He voluntarily subjected Himself to the experiences of men, that by bringing Himself to the measure of our weakness whom He loved, He might correspondingly bring us to the measure of His own strength."

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA (150-215)

⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified:
"What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?

⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor
⁸ and put everything under their feet."

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

HEBREWS 2:6-9

GIVING & BUDGET

	JAN-NOV 2025	DEC 2025
GIVING AS OF 12/31/2025	\$475,832	\$66,370
BUDGETED EXPENSE	700,317	65,385
DIFFERENCE	224,485	985



(626) 653-6036 (voicemail or text) | info@gracepasadena.org | www.gracepasadena.org

Mailing Address:
254 N Lake Ave #287
Pasadena, CA 91101

Music lyrics printed by permission: CCLI #2816052
Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

JANUARY 4, 2026
THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS