

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 28, 2024 † 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTORS: Rev. Dr. Bob Stebe, Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale

LITURGIST: Tina Teed

MUSICIANS: Sarah Lightfoot, Kimi Davies

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Jim Sandberg

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale)

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day in joy and Christian fellowship,

for we are the church of Jesus Christ!

We pray for the Holy Spirit to be among us,

opening our hearts and minds to the worship of God.

Let us worship God!

◆ OPENING HYMN No. 463 (How Firm a Foundation)

Verse 1: ***How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word! What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?***

Verse 2: ***"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.***

Verse 3: ***"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.***

Verse 4: ***"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.***

Verse 5: ***"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not desert to its foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

CONFESSORIAL RESPONSE No. 250 (In the Bulb There Is a Flower)

Verse 3: ***In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

◆ **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (2 Corinthian 5:17)

Hear the good news! In Christ, we are new creations. The old life is gone, thank God! A new life has begun. Know you are forgiven, and be at peace. Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ **RESPONSE OF PRAISE** No. 591 (Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!)

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (1 Peter 2:18-25 (Common English Bible))

ANTHEM ("This is My Father's World" by Sally Deford; Kimi Davies, vocalist)

MESSAGE ("Learning to Write Like Jesus" by Rev. Dr. Bob Stebe)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ **HYMN OF RESPONSE** No. 394 (Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation)

Verse 1: *Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone, chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one; holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.*

Verse 2: *To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay; come, with all your loving kindness; hear your people as we pray, and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.*

Verse 3: *Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain; what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain; and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.*

Verse 4: *Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son, laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one: one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!*

◆ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (found on page 35 of the hymnal)

OFFERTORY (“Be Thou My Vision” arranged by Vick Hancock Wright)

◆ DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

◆ PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

◆ CLOSING HYMN No. 741 (Guide My Feet)

Verse 1: *Guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

Verse 2: *Hold my hand while I run this race; hold my hand while I run this race; hold my hand while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

Verse 3: *Stand by me while I run this race; stand by me while I run this race; stand by me while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

Verse 4: *I'm your child while I run this race; I'm your child while I run this race; I'm your child while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

Verse 5: *Search my heart while I run this race; search my heart while I run this race; search my heart while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

Verse 6: *Guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race; guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain!*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION HYMN No. 546 (Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing)

Verse 1: *Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.*

POSTLUDE