

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 8, 2023 † 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGIST: Jean Sowers

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Kimi Davies

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Jim Sandberg

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to you, O God, doing our best to put distractions aside.

We come to you, O God, with our full selves.

We come to you, O God, grateful for what is good.

We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong in the world.

We come to you, O God, to ask that we may have ears to hear.

We come to you, O God, with aching hearts.

We come to you, O God, because we know you listen to all your children.

We come to you, O God.

Let us worship God!

♦ OPENING HYMN No. 761 (Called as Partners in Christ's Service)

Verse 1: *Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

Verse 2: *Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old, blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

Verse 3: *Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense, help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care, bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

Verse 4: *So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you call us to be your voices in this world, and we stay silent. You call us to be your hands in this world, and we keep them hidden. You call us to be your feet in this world, and we go our own way. When we meet those who are doubting, and say nothing, forgive us. When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us. When we are called to take up your cross and carry nothing, forgive us. Breathe forgiveness onto us. Breathe grace onto us. Breathe your life into us that we might develop the ears to hear your voice above all others. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 695 (Change My Heart, O God)

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

◆ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news! Our God breathes new life into what we thought was dead and gone. Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again and again. In the chaos and in the silence, our God speaks. Believe and now live the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God! The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 729 (Lord, I Want to Be a Christian)

Verse 1: *Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

Verse 2: *Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP (Karen Mitchell-Yakymi and Allison Carlson)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (Acts 6:1-7)

ANTHEM ("All Who Love and Serve Your City" Kimi Davies, vocalist)

MESSAGE ("Public Love" by the Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 769 (For Everyone Born)

Verse 1: *For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter; a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,*

Refrain: *and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

Verse 2: *For women and man, a place at the table, revising the toles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair.* Refrain

Verse 3: *For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.* Refrain

Verse 4: *For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive, in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live,* Refrain

Verse 5: *For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,* Refrain

♦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the *Belhar Confession*)

That God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; That God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged. That God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; That God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; That the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

OFFERTORY ("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")

♦ 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. 757 (Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples)

Verse 1: *Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

Verse 2: *God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.*

Verse 3: *Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease, a world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

Verse 4: *May we in service to our God act out the living word, and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

♦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE