

# VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 † 10:00 AM

***Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone***

PASTORS: Rev. Robin Garvin, Rev. Dr. Ray Jones III

LITURGIST: Sarah Martin

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Kimi Davies, Luke Smith, Eoghan McDowell

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Dan Rueff, Jim Sandberg, Dean Bridges, Hayden Bach

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

#### ♦ CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Mark 8:34-35)

We follow Christ,

**Who says take up your cross.**

We follow Christ,

**Who bids us come and offer our lives.**

We follow Christ,

**Who summons us to new life.**

Come, let us worship our Lord!

#### ♦ OPENING HYMN No. 307 (God of Grace and God of Glory)

Verse 1: ***God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.***

Verse 2: ***Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.***

Verse 3: ***Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control; shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.***

Verse 4: ***Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore. Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.***

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all saints, God of all sinners, hear our prayer. We would be saint-like – holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners – selfish, short-tempered, profoundly aware of our failings. Lord, we pray you forgive the wrong we have done and bless the good we have accomplished. We pray you keep on loving us and helping us and molding us more and more into the image of Christ, the One we follow, and in whose name we pray. 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

People of God, hear these words of assurance: Our God is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love. When we stumble, God is there to catch us; when we are weighed down, God is there to lift us up. So be at peace. 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.***

Verse 3: ***Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.***

Verse 4: ***Lord, I want to be more like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more like Jesus in my heart.***

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

# PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (Mark 8:34-38)

ANTHEM ("How Can I Keep From Singing" by Chris Tomlin and Matt Redman; Luke Smith, Eoghan McDowell, vocalists)

MESSAGE ("Living as the Body of Christ" by the Rev. Dr. Ray Jones III)

# RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

## ◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 726 (Will You Come and Follow Me)

Verse 1: ***"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"***

Verse 2: ***"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"***

Verse 3: ***"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"***

Verse 4: ***"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"***

Verse 5: ***Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.***

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*A New Creed of 1968*, The United Church of Canada)

**“We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.”**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION (“Fall Mission Endowment Grants” by Carol Powers)

OFFERTORY (“God of Wonders” by Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong; Kimi Davies, vocalist)

◆ 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. 749 (Come! Live in the Light!)

Verse 1: ***Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.***

Refrain: ***We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.***

Verse 2: ***Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more.*** Refrain

Verse 3: ***Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.*** Refrain

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE