

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 † 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGISTS: Marcia Sanderman, Turner Sanderman

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Kimi Davies, Della Simone

VIDEO/SOUND: Roger Rees, Jim Sandberg, Dean Bridges, Hayden Bach

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 96:1-4)

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let us worship God!

♦ OPENING HYMN No. 619 (Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven)

Verse 1: ***Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise? Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!***

Verse 2: ***Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress; God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!***

Verse 3: ***Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame, gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same. Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!***

Verse 4: ***Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face. Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you call us to love as deeply as you love, and yet, we love too few and too little. You call us to stand boldly for what is right, and yet, we timidly whisper about injustice in our world. You call us to serve others selflessly, and yet, we mostly take care of ourselves and our own. Forgive us and give us grace to trust that once again you will heal the brokenness in us. We ask in the strong name of Christ our Lord. 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

Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. 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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (Acts 3:1-10)

ANTHEM ("Down to the River to Pray" Kimi Davies, Della Simone, vocalists)

MESSAGE ("Joining Jesus in His Work" by the Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 465 (What a Friend We Have in Jesus)

Verse 1: *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!*

Verse 2: *Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!*

Verse 3: *Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer! Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.*

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sung response, hymn no. 469: ***Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.***

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION ("Peace & Global Witness Offering" by Connie Brenner)

OFFERTORY ("I'll Fly Away" Kimi Davies, Della Simone, vocalists)

◆ 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. 772 (Live into Hope)

Verse 1: ***Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed. The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!***

Verse 2: ***Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity, removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.***

Verse 3: ***Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be, the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.***

Verse 4: ***Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed. God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.***

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE