

# VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 21, 2024 ✠ 10:00 AM

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

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGIST: Michelle Blair

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Luke Smith

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees

## GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

#### ♦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Give praise to God!

**Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves...**

It is God who forgives...

**It is God who delivers...**

It is God who extends unconditional love...

**Give thanks and praise to the Lord!**

Let us Worship God!

#### ♦ OPENING HYMN No. 620 (Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven)

Verse 1: ***Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.***

Verse 2: ***Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress; praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.***

Verse 3: ***Fatherlike, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.***

Verse 4: ***Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.***

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, Gracious God, for the limitations we have placed on our graciousness toward others. We often treat others well only if there is something in it for us. We apologize, but only if we see no alternative. We justify our grudges when others have hurt us. We remember offenses that we should have forgotten long ago. We are far too comfortable with brokenness when we should be reaching out with healing. We expect you to forgive us when we find it hard to do the same for others. Grant us your grace, Lord, and equip us to share your graciousness with others. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. Amen.

### CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 406 (We Are Standing on Holy Ground)

***We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around; let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.***

### ♦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear these words of assurance: People of God, our sins are forgiven. God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all. Reconciled to the God who loves us, let us live and love as God does. 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. 267 (Come, Christians, Join to Sing)

Verse 1: ***Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen! Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice; praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!***

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (Matthew 18:21-35)

ANTHEM ("Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"; Luke Smith, vocalist)

MESSAGE ("How Many Times?" by Rev. Robin Garvin)

## RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

### ♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 444 (Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive)

Verse 1: ***"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray, but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.***

Verse 2: ***How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?***

Verse 3: ***In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew: what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!***

Verse 4: ***Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease. Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.***

### ♦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *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 (Michelle Blair, Deacon)

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

OFFERTORY ("Thy Word" by Amy Grant; Luke Smith, 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. 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 like Jesus in my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

♦ BENEDICTION HYMN No. 542 (God Be with You Till We Meet Again)

Verse 1: *God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.*

POSTLUDE