

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 28, 2024 ✠ 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTORS: The Rev. Dr. Brian Craker, Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale

LITURGIST: Carol Powers

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Giselle Jensen

VIDEO/SOUND: Dean Bridges, Dan Rueff, Jim Sandberg

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale)

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 105, adapted)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on the Lord's name, make known the Lord's deeds among the people.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to the Lord;

Tell of all the Lord's wonderful works. Glory in the holy name of the Lord.

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Let us worship God!

♦ OPENING HYMN No. 299 (You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim)

Verse 1: ***You servants of God, your Master proclaim and publish abroad Christ's wonderful name. The name all victorious of Jesus extol, whose kingdom is glorious, who rules over all.***

Verse 2: ***Ascended on high, almighty to save, he still remains nigh; his presence we have. The great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.***

Verse 3: ***"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!" Let all cry aloud and honor the Son. The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.***

Verse 4: ***Then let us adore and give him his right: all glory and power, all wisdom and might, all honor and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving Lord, we have fallen short time and time again. You have given us your Word, both in scripture and in your Son; You have promised us your presence, both through the Holy Spirit and in community with one another; And, you have blessed us with your kingdom, both now and yet to come. Even so, we neglect or reject your purposes for us. We do not love what you love. We do not embrace what you embrace. We do not defend those whom you have called us to defend. Have mercy on us. Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do. May we experience your grace again this morning. We pray in Jesus' name. 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: God searches for the lost, and finds us; God invites the hungry to the table, and feeds us; God sends Jesus, and frees us from death's prison; God forgives our sin, and heals us with mercy and grace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 25:14-30)

ANTHEM ("Called Me Higher" by Leslie Jordan; Giselle Jensen, vocalist)

MESSAGE ("Sharing in the Master's Joy" by the Rev. Dr. Brian Craker)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 203 (Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love)

Refrain: ***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

Verse 1: ***Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, Master who acts as a slave to them.***

Refrain

Verse 2: ***Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race; neighbors are near us and far away.***

Refrain

Verse 3: ***These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love; all these are neighbors to us and to you.*** Refrain

Verse 4: ***Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet; this is the way we should live like you.***

Refrain

♦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UWorship Resource, Philippians 2:6-11)

We do this because we follow Jesus: who, though he was in the form of God, didn't think of equality with God as something to hold onto for his own advantage. Instead, he gave up everything, became a servant, and was born as a tiny baby. Then he humbled himself even more, and became obedient to God even to the point of death on a cross. In response to this obedience, God lifted Jesus to the highest place of honor, giving him a name that deserves respect more than any other, so that the mere mention of Jesus' name would one day cause everyone— in heaven, on earth and under the earth—to fall to their knees in awe and wonder. Because Jesus humbled himself, everyone will come to know that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION (“State of Valley’s Giving 2023” by Andrea Murdoch)

OFFERTORY (“Will You Come and Follow Me”)

♦ 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. 69 (I, the Lord of Sea and Sky)

Verse 1: *I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

Refrain: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

Verse 2: *I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?* Refrain

Verse 3: *I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?* Refrain

♦ 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