

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 17, 2021 ✠ 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

LITURGIST: Jim Sandberg

MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, Nick Browning, Raoul Bellis-Squires

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Dan Rueff, Greg Russell, Donna Russell

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND ELEMENTS ("Amazing Grace"; Nick Browning, piano)

WORDS OF PRAISE (Psalm 139 selected verses)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works.

OPENING HYMN No. 339 (Lift Every Voice and Sing)

Verse 1: *Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.*

Verse 2: *Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

Verse 3: *God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.*

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 471 (The Lord Is My Song)

The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

The good news is that when we confess our brokenness before our Creator, we are forgiven time and time again. In this grace we are made new.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 591 (Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!)

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Acts 2:43-47)

ANTHEM ("O Love Divine" by Luigi Zaninelli; Raoul Bellis-Squires, Bass)

MESSAGE ("We Talkin' 'bout PRACTICE?!" by Rev. Jeff Binder)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 804 (Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!)

Verse 1: *Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.*

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!*

Verse 2: *With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise, send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days.* Refrain

Verse 3: *Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as we go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe:* Refrain

Verse 4: *At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest.* Refrain

Verse 5: *Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ our King.* Refrain

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from The Confession of 1967)

The church has an obligation to approach the Scriptures with literary and historical understanding. As God has spoken his word in diverse cultural situations, the church is confident that God will continue to speak through the Scriptures in a changing world and in every form of human culture. God's word is spoken to the church today where the Scriptures are faithfully preached and attentively read in dependence on the illumination of the Holy Spirit and with readiness to receive their truth and direction.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Karen Sandberg, Deacon)

OFFERTORY (Offerings can be mailed into the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

CLOSING HYMN No. 634 (To God Be the Glory)

Verse 1: *To God be the glory; great things he has done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the lifegate that all may go in.*

Refrain: *Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the glory: great things he has done!*

Verse 2: *Great things he has taught us; great things he has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.*

CHARGE AND BLESSING (Psalm 119)

May God's word be a lamp unto our feet

And a lamp unto our path.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, go now out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE