

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 31, 2021 † 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jennifer Ackerman

LITURGIST: Janice Viestenz

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld, Sanctuary Choir

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Yvonne Rees

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE (Psalm 146)

Let us praise the Lord as long as we live;

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Do not put your trust in mortals, in whom there is no help;

For our plans perish when we return to the earth.

Our help is in the God of Jacob, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them;

Our help is in the One who brings justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

The Lord your God will reign forever, for all generations;

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

◆ OPENING HYMN No. 177 (I Will Come to You)

Verse 1: *I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.*

Verse 2: *I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.*

Refrain: *Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

Verse 3: *I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.* Refrain

Verse 4: *I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live!* Refrain

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we come together to worship, hoping to be people who love you with all our hearts and souls, minds and strength. But there are so many other things that clamor for our attention, and we too often forget what the church is supposed to be. So here we are, standing before you with all our mortal helplessness, asking that you make yourself known to us. Help us recognize your Holy Presence that continues to challenge us, inspire us, and make us into the people you want us to be. Amen.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 466 (Come and Fill Our Hearts) (sung twice)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

◆ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Once for all time, Christ sealed the covenant with his own blood. He barged straight into the sacred place, with all of us in tow. Who could love us more? Thank you, Lord. Thank you. AMEN.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 746 (Send Me, Jesus)

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Lord. Lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Jesus; lead me, Lord. Fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Jesus; fill me, Lord.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Mark 12:28-34)

ANTHEM ("Dream Keeper" arr. Rollo Dilworth)

SCRIPTURE (Hebrews 9:11-14)

MESSAGE ("WHAT IS TRUTH? It's Bloody" by Rev. Jennifer Ackerman)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

SPECIAL MUSIC ("Grace Flows Down" by David Bell and Louie Giglio; Siena Hertafeld, vocalist)

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?

In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it promised that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, that is, all my sins.

What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

To be washed with Christ's blood means that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ's blood poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross. To be washed with Christ's Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ so that more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY ("They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love") (Offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

◆ 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 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.*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (Ephesians 3:20-21)

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC