

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 29, 2021 † 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

LITURGIST: Kay Hope Gold

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld, John Harr

VIDEO/SOUND: Dan Rueff, Roger Rees, Steve Rees

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

◆ WORDS OF PRAISE (Psalm 40)

Happy are those who make the LORD their trust,

who do not turn to the proud,

to those who go astray after false gods.

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

Worship the Lord with gladness!

We worship the Lord of our salvation!

◆ OPENING HYMN No. 336 (We Gather Together)

Verse 1: ***We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.***

Verse 2: ***Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!***

Verse 3: ***We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!***

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, creator of the universe, of all that is seen and unseen; today we give thanks and praise for all that you have been, all that you are, all that you will be. Even in times of doubts and questions, you are with us, and we are thankful. Help us to center our restless minds and bodies on you at this time. May we feel the breath of your Spirit upon our hearts this morning. May we experience the living Christ in the words we say and hear, the music we sing, the hands we touch. Come, Holy Spirit, come.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 203 (Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love)

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

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

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

◆ **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE** (Romans 8:14-17)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Friends, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ **RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 177** (I Will Come to You) (Sung two times)

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.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Romans 8:31-39)

ANTHEM ("Boardwalk" composed by Siena Hertafeld; Siena Hertafeld, vocalist; John Harr, guitar)

MESSAGE ("What Then Are We to Say About These Things?" by Rev. Jeff Binder)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 833 (O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go)

Verse 1: *O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.*

Verse 2: *O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.*

Verse 3: *O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.*

Verse 4: *O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.*

◆ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *The Confession of Belhar*)

The unity of the Church must become visible so that the people around us can see how separation and hatred are overcome in Christ. We believe that genuine faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership in this Christian church. We praise God that race, class, gender, or culture does not determine who belongs to this Church. We believe that God has entrusted to the Church the message of reconciliation; and that the Church is called to proclaim and embody this reconciliation; to be peacemakers; and to believe and to witness that God conquers all powers of sin and death, of hate, bitterness and enmity, through his life-giving Word and Spirit.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY ("Control" by the band Tenth Avenue North) (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. 260 (Alleluia! Sing to Jesus)

Verse 1: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne; Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone! Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood: "Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."

Verse 2: Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now; Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how. Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er, shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Verse 3: Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay; Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day. Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Verse 4: Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own; Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne. As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest; here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace; have courage;
hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

EXITING MUSIC