

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 19, 2023 † 10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGIST: Allison Carlson

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld, Luke Smith, Eoghan McDowell, Sanctuary Choir

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

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to service,

rather than honor.

God calls us to love the unknown,

rather than the familiar.

We come to this time of worship,

trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Let us worship God!

◆ OPENING HYMN 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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, forgive us when we exalt ourselves and mock the humble. We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trust in your strength. Open us to your Spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to the outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CONFESSONAL RESPONSE No. 627 (I Love You, Lord)

*I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you;
O my soul, rejoice. Take joy, my King, in what you hear;
may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.*

♦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Psalm 103:8)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Believe and now live the good news of the gospel, 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. 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.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (Tina Teed, Země)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (Luke 14:1, 7-14)

CHOIR ANTHEM ("Beloved, Let Us Love One Another" by Pepper Choplin)

MESSAGE ("Making Room" by Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

♦ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 769 (For Everyone Born)

Verse 1: *For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter; a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,*

Refrain: *and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

Verse 2: *For women and man, a place at the table, revising the toles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that's fair.* Refrain

Verse 3: *For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.* Refrain

Verse 4: *For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive, in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live,* Refrain

Verse 5: *For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,* Refrain

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *The Confession of 1967*)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Allison Carlson, Deacon)

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

OFFERTORY ("Come to the Table" by Frey, McDonald, Glover (recorded by Sidewalk Prophets); Luke Smith, Siena Hertafeld, Eoghan McDowell, vocalists)

(Offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online by visiting our website: 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. 306 (Blest Be the Tie That Binds)

Verse 1: *Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Verse 2: *Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*

Verse 3: *We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear. And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*

Verse 4: *When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.*

Verse 5: *From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC