

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 † 10:00 AM

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Robin Garvin

LITURGIST: Diane Meyer

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Kimi Davies, Megan Wakefield, Giselle Jensen, Sanctuary Choir

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

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 95)

O come, let us sing to our God and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**We lift our hearts and voices in joy and thanksgiving for being here together
in the presence of our beloved God.**

Come, let us worship this amazing God, for we belong to God.

We will listen for God's word and live in the hope it inspires.

Let us worship God!

♦ OPENING HYMN No. 385 (All People That on Earth Do Dwell)

Verse 1: ***All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.***

Verse 2: ***Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make; we are his folk; he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.***

Verse 3: ***O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto; praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.***

Verse 4: ***For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure; his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous, loving God, we see glimpses of the glory of creation, we know through Jesus the comfort of salvation, we sense the restless movement of your Spirit, yet we do not live as people of vision, knowledge, and wisdom. For the poverty of our worship...our half-hearted attempts to live as your disciples... those times when we have mistaken the church for a building... and those times when we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves: Forgive us and renew your Spirit within us. Give us grace to live as Good News people filled with hope and loving others with the love of Jesus. Through Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

CONFESSATIONAL RESPONSE No. 695 (Change My Heart, O God)

***Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.***

◆ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, our hope and assurance rest in God's unfailing love and forgiveness. Open your hearts and minds and souls that the healing waters of God's never-ending love and forgiveness may flow into and over you. Know that in this love and forgiveness you have encountered the living God. 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.*

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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (Psalm 100)

CHORAL ANTHEM ("I Wanna Be Ready" traditional Spiritual, arranged by Rosephanye Powell)

MESSAGE ("Waking Up to Love" by the Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 366 (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)

Verse 1: *Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

Verse 2: *Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

Verse 3: *Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

Verse 4: *Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Declaration of Faith)

We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute, whose help for us is sufficient. That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love. We know that God is not confined to the story we can tell. The story itself tells us God works the divine, sovereign will among all peoples of the earth. We believe God works beyond our imagining throughout the universe. We must not set our ultimate reliance on any other help. We must not yield unconditional obedience to any other power. We must not love anyone or anything more than we love God. To worship God is highest joy. To serve God is perfect freedom.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Diane Meyer, Deacon)

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

BLESSING OF THE MATTHEW 25 BANNER

OFFERTORY ("Here I Am to Worship" by Tim Hughes; Kimi Davies, Megan Wakefield, Giselle Jensen, vocalists)

◆ 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. 546 (Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing)

Verse 1: *Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.*

Verse 2: *Thanks we give and adoration for our gospel's joyful sound; may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.*

Verse 3: *Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way, let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.*

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE