

MAY 29, 2022

PRAYERS
*from
the* OLD
TESTAMENT

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERED BY GOD FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 69:30-35

Songs of Praise

How Great Thou Art

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Prayer of Adoration

RENEWED BY GOD THROUGH GRACE

Confession of Sin

Jeremiah 3:12-13

Declaration of Grace

John 6:37-39

Songs of Renewal & Gratitude

Lord I Need You

Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

SET APART BY GOD

Offering

Sermon

Profession of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

SENT BY GOD

Song of Response

Amazing Grace

Blessing

General Offering: May 16 - May 22.....	\$ 20,963
Weekly Budget Need.....	\$ 26,500
Last Week's Deficit	(\$ 5,537)
Budget Deficit (YTD)	(\$ 157,685)

How are we doing?

Offering income is not evenly distributed throughout the year.

So far, we've received **28.9%** of our annual budget.

On average, we've received **30.9%** of our budget by this time in the year.

\$26,676 would bring us up to average.

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

³⁰ I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. ³¹ This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs. ³² When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. ³³ For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.

³⁴ Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them. ³⁵ For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it.

- Psalm 69:30-35 (English Standard Version)

SONGS

HOW GREAT THOU ART (Words and Music by Stuart Wesley Keene Hine)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r thru'out the universe displayed!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim,
My God, how great Thou art!

SONGS

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS *(Words: Thomas O. Chisholm / Music: William M. Runyan)*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

READINGS

CONFESSION OF SIN

¹² Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "'Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever. ¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the Lord your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the Lord.'"

- Jeremiah 3:12-13 *(English Standard Version)*

DECLARATION OF GRACE

³⁷ "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day."

- John 6:37-39 *(English Standard Version)*

SONGS

LORD I NEED YOU

(Words and Music by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, and Matt Maher, 2011)

Lord, I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without You, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness; oh, God, how I need You.*

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where You are.

And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.
Where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.

*So, teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.*

JESUS WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS

(Words and Music by John Wilbur Chapman, Matthew S. Smith, and Rowland Hugh Prichard, 2004)

Jesus! What a friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, He, my Savior, makes me whole.

*Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah, what a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, He is with me to the end.*

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in Him;
Tempted, tried, and often failing, He, my strength, my victory wins.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus! I do now receive Him, more than all in Him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine.

READINGS

SCRIPTURE

¹⁶ Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷ The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰ Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it." ³³ And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

- Genesis 18:16-33 (*English Standard Version*)

SERMON OUTLINE

What does prayer reveal about your life?

Genesis 18:16-33

Prayer reveals the direction of our lives. (Genesis 18:17-18, 27)

What questions arise out of this prayer of Abraham?

Abraham, do you know where you are? (Genesis 18:16, 22, 33)

Abraham, do you know where you have come from? (Genesis 18:19)

Abraham, do you know where you are going? (Genesis 18:23, 25)

READINGS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Who is the most patient family member or friend that you know? What would it take to exhaust this person's patience?
- How is God's covenant relationship with Abraham described in Genesis 18:19? What words stand out to you? What other passages (both Old Testament and New Testament) come to your mind about God's covenant with Abraham? Who is speaking to whom in this passage? Who is listening?
- What "sneak preview" does God show Abraham? Why let Abraham in on this? (Genesis 18:17, 20-21)
- What audacious response does Abraham then make? (Genesis 18:22-33) Why is he so daring with God? And so concerned about Sodom and Gomorrah?
- Do you think Abraham influenced God one way or the other? Why? Or why not?
- In Abraham's intercession, what do you admire enough to imitate? In God's successive replies to Abraham, what do you find comforting? Discomforting?
- How has God shown his patience with you? Do you ever think that his patience will run out? How is your answer supported from this passage? What does this say about how we should regard our own impatience with others?
- One of the experiences we have with grief, death, loss, and dying is "bargaining". When have you ever bargained with God? What were the results?
- What does this interchange between Abraham and God reveal about the kind of relationship God wants with us?

REFLECTION QUOTES

³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.

- John 13:3-4 (*English Standard Version*)

"True prayer is nothing but love."

- St. Augustine of Hippo

"All of us must cling to God through prayer. My secret is simple: I pray. Through prayer I become one in love with Christ. I realize that praying to him is loving him...In the silence of the heart God will speak."

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta

READINGS

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Although not written by the apostles, the Apostle's Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated as a baptismal confession, probably in the second century, and developed into its present form by the sixth or seventh century.

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* ("catholic" means "world-wide" in scope rather than regional or sectarian)

SONGS

AMAZING GRACE (Words: John Newton / Traditional American tune)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION: Today at 11:30am. Stay after church for fellowship around hamburgers & hot dogs as we kick off the summer!

WOMEN'S SUMMER NIGHTS: Join us for our first gathering - wine tasting at the Stillmans! This Wednesday, June 1st, 5pm-7pm at the Stillman's (6240 Oakhurst Way, Newcastle, 95658). Featuring three world-renowned mystery sommeliers to pour the wines provided by Casa de Stillman. Guess the grapes and rate your favorites. Please bring a small plate of finger food to share. Other beverage options will be available. RSVP to Dana Allred (dana@valleysprings.org).

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY: The Lighthouse ministry for adults with special needs begins on Saturday, June 11th from 6pm-8pm in the Youth Room. Includes games, crafts, worship, teaching, prayer, and snacks. Occurs on the 2nd Saturday each month. If you would like to volunteer, or learn more, email Dan Adragna at dan@allaccesschurch.com.

2022 SUMMERFEST: Our annual vacation Bible school is coming soon! Three nights, June 15th-17th, 6pm-8:15pm, featuring dinner for everyone, worship, Bible lessons, crafts, and games. More info and registration: www.valleysprings.org/summerfest.

SUMMER PARK DATES: Join other Valley Springs moms for fellowship and playtime for our kids. 9am-10:30am on June 7th (Johnson Springview Park), June 21st (Olympus Park), June 28th (Central Park), July 5th (Royer Park), July 12th (Mahany Park), July 19th (Hillsborough Park), July 26th (Maidu Regional Park), and August 2nd (Madera Park). Contact: Kara Miedema (karamiedema@gmail.com).

SUMMER FAMILY FUN: Multiple opportunities to be together as a community throughout the summer! See the insert in today's bulletin or check out valleysprings.org/summer for the full schedule.

For more information, visit www.valleysprings.org

OUR MISSION

Valley Springs Presbyterian Church is an intergenerational community of grace, learning to love God, and serve our world, together.

ELDER ON-CALL

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CARE MINISTRIES & ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

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