

ALIVE
in
CHRIST



ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERED BY GOD FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

Call to Worship

Romans 12:1-3

Songs of Praise

Better Is One Day

Be Thou My Vision

Prayer of Adoration

RENEWED BY GOD THROUGH GRACE

Confession of Sin

Psalm 79:8-9

Declaration of Grace

Psalm 86:8-13

Songs of Renewal & Gratitude

What Wondrous Love Is This

Revelation Song

SET APART BY GOD

Children's Message

Offering

Sermon

The Lord's Supper

Profession of Faith

The Apostle's Creed

SENT BY GOD

Song of Response

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

Blessing

General Offering: April 5 - April 11	\$ 11,597
Weekly Budget Need	\$ 26,808
Last Week's Deficit	(\$ 15,211)
Budget Deficit (YTD)	(\$ 106,528)

This information can also be found at valleysprings.org

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

- Romans 12:1-3 (*English Standard Version*)

CONFESSION OF SIN

⁸Do not remember against us our former iniquities; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low. ⁹Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!

- Psalm 79:8-9 (*English Standard Version*)

DECLARATION OF GRACE

⁸There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. ⁹All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. ¹⁰For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. ¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. ¹²I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. ¹³For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

- Psalm 86:8-13 (*English Standard Version*)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Question 39:

With what attitude should we pray?

Answer:

With love, perseverance, and gratefulness; in humble submission to God's will, knowing that, for the sake of Christ, he always hears our prayers.

Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

READINGS

SCRIPTURE

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

- Colossians 1:3-8 (*English Standard Version*)

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLE'S CREED

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)

SERMON OUTLINE

We Thank God for You

Colossians 1:3-8

Paul thanks God for the growth in the gospel evident in the Colossian church (as shared by Epaphras). (Colossians 1:3, 7-8)

What fruit do we expect to see in believers when there is growth in the gospel of grace? (Colossians 1:5b-6)

FAITH in Christ Jesus... (Colossians 1:4a)

LOVE for all the saints... (Colossians 1:4b)

HOPE laid up in heaven... (Colossians 1:5a)

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

- What do you tend to give thanks to God for? Why do you give thanks for these things?
- What sort of things do you see when someone is growing in their understanding and embrace of the gospel? What have you seen in yourself?
- Who is someone who was a “faithful minister” in your life and helped you grow in your faith? (Like Epaphras, Colossians 1:7)
- Faith, hope and love are often connected in Paul’s writings (see Rom. 5:1–5; 1 Cor. 13:13; Gal. 5:5–6; Eph. 4:2–5; 1 Thess. 1:3; 5:8). In what ways can our hope for heaven motivate both our love and our faith now (1:4-5)? In which of these three areas of Christian believing and living do you think you are weakest? Strongest? Why might that be?
- Think about your own conversion to Christ. How do you usually describe it? How might you describe it differently in the way that Paul does in verses 6-8?
- What is genuine faith? Why is it not just believing things are true? What else is required to make faith real? See Hebrews 11:1 and following for help.
- What might it look like for you to love all the “saints” or members of your community group?
- Try reading (or listening) through the whole book of Colossians in one sitting this week. Take note of the words, phrases, and themes that stand out to you. (It only takes about 20 minutes to read or listen to the whole book.)

SONGS

BETTER IS ONE DAY *(Words and Music by Matt Redman, 1995)*

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

*Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.*

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul. I've tasted and I've seen.
Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You.

Better is one day, better is one day,
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere.

BE THOU MY VISION *(Ancient Irish Poem, ca. 8th Century / Traditional Irish Melody)*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son, thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

(Words and Music by Alexander Means and William Walker)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the "Great I Am,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

(Continued on next page)

SONGS

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And thro' eternity, I'll sing on.

REVELATION SONG *(Words and Music by Jennie Lee Riddle, 2004)*

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; holy, holy is He;
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on heaven's mercy seat.

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. Who was and is and is to come;
With all creation I sing Praise to the King of kings;
You are my ev'rything and I will adore You.*

Clothed in rainbows of living color; flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be to You, the only wise King.

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, at the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,
Such a marv'lous mystery, yeah.

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

(Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren, 2018)

What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, my steadfast love,
My deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, for by my side the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, his power is displayed.

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and he was raised to overthrow the grave.

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated. Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With ev'ry breath I long to follow Jesus, for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat: yet not I,
But through Christ in me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE: We have shifted our service times in order to prepare for warmer weather, and the expanded opportunity to use our building. Gospel Formation continues at 9am, livestreamed as usual, and now also open for in-person attendance in the Chapel. Ignition (middle school) and U4IC (high school) will gather for "The Breakfast Club" in the Youth Room from 9am-9:45am. They'll study God's word and eat breakfast together before attending the worship service. At 9:15am, our "Family Worship Fifteen" will meet in a slightly expanded format. At 10am, we will all gather together for worship on the back lawn and via livestream. Don't forget to arrive a little early to grab a drink from "On Site Coffee", open every Sunday morning!

PARK DATES: Join other Valley Springs' moms for fellowship and playtime for our kids. Monday, May 10th from 3pm-5pm at Royer Park.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The men's Bible study has started, *33thseries: Volume 2*, Saturdays at 7:30am. Registration and more info at: valleysprings.org/men.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU LOVE - THE SPIRITUAL POWER OF HABIT: In *You Are What You Love*, James K. A. Smith helps us recognize the formative power of culture and the transformative possibilities of Christian practices. This class will meet from April 25th to June 6th, at 9am, in the Middle School Room and via Zoom. Please purchase a book in advance; we will read a chapter each week and then discuss on Sunday. Led by Marcel Weiland and Mark Bryan. Email matte@valleysprings.org for the Zoom info.

VALLEY SPRINGS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL: Our weekday preschool program for 3's, 4's, and 5-year-olds. Registration for the 2021-22 school year is now open. See www.valleyspringschristianpreschool.org or contact Danya Schulte: danya@valleysprings.org / (916) 786-7940 x106.

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

(916) 786-7940, option 5
elders@valleysprings.org

MERCY & CARE TEAM

(916) 786-7940, option 4
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