

JULY 31, 2022

PRAYERS
*from
the* OLD
TESTAMENT

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERED BY GOD FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-3

Songs of Praise

Come Thou Fount

My Hope Is Built

Prayer of Adoration

RENEWED BY GOD THROUGH GRACE

Confession of Sin

John 14:23-24

Declaration of Grace

1 Corinthians 1:8-9

Songs of Renewal & Gratitude

More Love to Thee

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

SET APART BY GOD

Offering

Sermon

The Lord's Supper

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

SENT BY GOD

Song of Response

Before the Throne of God Above

Blessing

General Offering: July 18 - July 24.....	\$ 27,641
Weekly Budget Need	\$ 26,500
Last Week's Surplus.....	\$ 1,141
Budget Deficit (YTD)	(\$219,621)

How are we doing?

Offering income is not evenly distributed throughout the year.

So far, we've received **41.8%** of our annual budget.

On average, we've received **44.3%** of our budget by this time in the year.

\$34,928 would bring us up to average.

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

- Psalm 95:1-3 (*English Standard Version*)

SONGS

COME THOU FOUNT (Words and Music by John Wyeth and Robert Robinson)

Come, Thou fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise:
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home:
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

MY HOPE IS BUILT

(Words and Music by Edward Mote and William Batchelder Bradbury)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

(Continued on next page)

SONGS

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When the last trumpet's voice shall sound,
O may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

READINGS

CONFESSION OF SIN

²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

- John 14:23-24 (*English Standard Version*)

DECLARATION OF GRACE

⁸ ...who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 (*English Standard Version*)

SONGS

MORE LOVE TO THEE

(Words and Music by Elizabeth Payson Prentiss and William Howard Doane)

More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest.
Now Thee alone I seek; give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

*More love to Thee, oh Christ! More love to Thee, oh God!
More love to Thee, oh Christ! More love to Thee!*

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise.
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;
This still my prayer shall be: more love, O Christ, to Thee;
More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

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.

READINGS

SCRIPTURE

⁷O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. ⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him." ¹¹But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹²O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

¹⁴Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed! ¹⁵Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, "A son is born to you," making him very glad. ¹⁶Let that man be like the cities that the Lord overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon, ¹⁷because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great. ¹⁸Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?

- Jeremiah 20:7-18 (*English Standard Version*)

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

- What images come to your mind or heart when you hear the word convulse?
- What takes you aback as you read Jeremiah 20:7-18? From what you know about Jeremiah's ministry, what transformation is occurring in Jeremiah and through Jeremiah for those he ministers to?
- Does praise seem strangely placed in the middle of Jeremiah's convulsing prayer?
- Over the past two weeks, both prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah were faced with a degree of silence, and so the reflection quotes have remained the same. Take time with your group to reflect about what silence is doing in both lives and where, perhaps, you see something of the continuity between the quotes about silence and the lives of Isaiah and Jeremiah. Do you recognize something of a common humanity as you consider their experiences?
- When you consider the place of silence, what is for you personally the most comforting and discomfiting aspects of silence? What do you do to avoid or create silence in your life?
- Have you ever considered cultivating silence as a deliberate spiritual discipline?

SERMON OUTLINE

Convulsing Prayer

Jeremiah 20:7-18

Convulsing prayer is a normal experience for those who walk with God...

(Colossians 1:3-8)

Why does Jeremiah choose to include this part of his testimony for the people of God?

To show that God holds us, constrained along a path of suffering faith...

(Jeremiah 20:7-10)

To prove that God holds us, constrained along a path of suffering hope...

(Jeremiah 20:11-13)

To learn that God holds us, constrained along a path of suffering love...

(Jeremiah 20:14-18)

— REFLECTION QUOTES —

In the sayings of the Desert Fathers, we can distinguish three aspects of silence. All of them deepen and strengthen the central idea that silence is the mystery of the future world. First, silence makes us pilgrims. Secondly, silence guards the fire within. Thirdly, silence teaches us to speak.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart* (p. 49)

Solitude is thus the place of purification and transformation, the place of the great struggle and the great encounter. Solitude is not simply a means to an end. Solitude is its own end. It is the place where Christ remodels us in his own image and frees us from the victimizing compulsions of the world. Solitude is the place of our salvation. Hence, it is the place where we want to lead all who are seeking the light in this dark world.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart* (p. 32)

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*)

READINGS

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

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

SONGS

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

(Words and Music by Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook, 1997)

Before the throne of God above I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love, who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died my sinful soul is counted free,
For God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable "I Am", the King of glory and of grace.
One with Himself I cannot die, my soul is purchased with His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

I bow before the cross of Christ, and marvel at this love divine,
God's perfect Son was sacrificed to make me righteous in God's eyes.
This river's depths I cannot know, but I can glory in its flood;
The Lord Most High has bowed down low, and poured on me His glorious love,
And poured on me His glorious love.

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER PARK DATES: Join other Valley Springs moms for fellowship and playtime for our kids. 9am-10:30am on August 2nd (Madera Park). Contact: Kara Miedema (karamiedema@gmail.com).

WOMEN'S SUMMER NIGHTS: Join other women from Valley Springs for an opportunity to enjoy time together at La Provence Restaurant (110 Diamond Creek Pl, Roseville). Meet on the front patio at 5pm on Wednesday, August 3rd for happy hour.

END OF SUMMER BASH: Close out the summer with your friends from Valley Springs! Cotton candy, snow cones, live music, and activities for the whole family. Saturday, August 6th, at 6pm. Sign up at www.valleysprings.org to bring your favorite side dish!

WORK DAY: Help us prepare our building for the onslaught of fall activities! On Saturday, August 13th, 9am-12pm, we could use some help with a few projects inside and outside our building. We'll be painting, cleaning, and taking care of a few other odds and ends! Good work clothes are recommended; we'll provide any necessary tools. Contact: Isaac Noschka (isaac@valleysprings.org).

VALLEY SPRINGS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL: Our weekday preschool program for 3's, 4's, and 5-year-olds. Registration for the 2022-23 school year is open. See www.valleyspringschristianpreschool.org or contact Danya Schulte: danya@valleysprings.org / (916) 786-7670.

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

CARE MINISTRIES & ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

(916) 786-7940, option 4
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