

February 5, 2023

PRAYER LIVED



ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERED BY GOD FOR WORSHIP

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Call to Worship

Revelation 4:6b-11

Songs of Praise

The Lion and the Lamb

We Fall Down

Prayer of Adoration

RENEWED BY GOD THROUGH GRACE

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SET APART BY GOD

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SENT BY GOD

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READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

^{6b} And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" ⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

- Revelation 4:6b-11 (*English Standard Version*)

SONGS

THE LION AND THE LAMB

(*Words and Music by Benton Brown, Brian Johnson, and Leeland Mooring, 2015*)

He's coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down.
And every chain will break as broken hearts declare His praise.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

*Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah.
He's roaring with power, and fighting our battles.
And ev'ry knee will bow before Him.*

*Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain.
For the sins of the world, His blood breaks the chains.
And ev'ry knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb.
Ev'ry knee will bow before Him.*

So open up the gates, make way before the King of kings.
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord (Almighty)?

SONGS

WE FALL DOWN

(Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, 1998)

We fall down, we lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus,
The greatness of mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus.

*And we cry holy, holy, holy,
And we cry holy, holy, holy,
And we cry holy, holy, holy, is the Lamb.*

READINGS

CONFESSION OF SIN

⁹Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also. ¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.
- Psalm 31:9-10 (*English Standard Version*)

DECLARATION OF GRACE

²³Love the Lord, all you his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride. ²⁴Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!
- Psalm 31:23-24 (*English Standard Version*)

SONGS

HOW HE LOVES

(Words and Music by John Mark McMillan, 2005)

He is jealous for me, loves like a hurricane.
I am a tree, bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy.
When all of a sudden, I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory.
I realize just how beautiful You are and how great Your affections are for me.

Oh, how He loves us so; oh, how He loves us.
How He loves us so; oh, how He loves us so.

*Yeah, He loves; us; oh, how He loves us.
Oh, how He loves us; oh, how He loves.*

We are His portion and He is our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes.
If grace is an ocean, we're all sinking; so Heaven meets earth
Like a sloppy wet kiss, and my heart turns violently inside of my chest.
I don't have time to maintain these regrets when I think about the way that...

THERE IS A REDEEMER

(Words and Music by Melody Green, 1982)

There is a Redeemer Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.

READINGS

SCRIPTURE

⁶“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

- John 17:6-18 (*English Standard Version*)

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

- Describe a time when you were “sent” somewhere. Was it for school? A job?
- How prepared did you feel when you were sent? What made it so that you either felt or did not feel prepared?
- Read verses 15-18. Comment on anything that stands out to you in these verses.
- Read Isaiah 19:19-25. Why would this passage have been a tough one to swallow for the people of God who first heard it?
- Read Luke 10:25-37. Why does Jesus share this parable with His followers? Why do you think they needed to hear it? Why do you need to hear it today?

REFLECTION QUOTES

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

- John 15:12-17 (*English Standard Version*)

¹⁹ In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. ²⁰ It will be a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the Lord because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them. ²¹ And the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them. ²² And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them.

²³ In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

²⁴ In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵ whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance.”

- Isaiah 19:19-25 (*English Standard Version*)

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.

³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

- Luke 10:25-37 (*English Standard Version*)

It is typical for us to think of our neighbors as people of the same social class and means (cf. Luke 14:12). We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need—regardless of race, politics, class, and religion—is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in the faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.

- Timothy Kelller, *Generous Justice* (p. 67-68)

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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS: Everyone is invited for a shared meal each Wednesday night in February. Join us any Wednesday, at 6pm, in the Worship Room.

FRONT PORCH DINER WITH ICC: Join our friends from ICC (Iranian Christian Church) for a Front Porch Diner next Sunday, February 12th! We'll meet right after the service for food and fellowship. Pot-luck only; please bring either a main dish and a side, or a main dish and a dessert.

VALLEY SPRINGS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL: Our weekday preschool program for 3's, 4's, and 5-year-olds. Registration for the 2023-24 school year opens on Monday, February 13th. See www.valleyspringschristianpreschool.org or contact Danya Schulte: danya@valleysprings.org / (916) 786-7670.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED! We are looking for donations of items to be sold at our 2023 Missions Auction! Get your spring cleaning done early. We need donations of good, sale-able items like (new) small appliances, housewares, unused gift cards, artwork, collectibles, and the like. Do you have an awesome cabin or timeshare? Do you perform a service professionally? We can auction those off too! Physical items can be dropped off at the office. Donations will be accepted until Friday, February 24th. For more information, contact Isaac Noschka (isaac@valleysprings.org / (916) 786-7940 x140).

LENTEN SERVICES: Join us Wednesdays at noon for a special service as we prepare and anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Begins Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and continues through Holy Week, in the Chapel.

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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