



APRIL 5, 2026

9:30 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance
Mike Finkelstein, Trumpet

Arr. C.R. Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE / OUTPOURING OF WATERS / TRINITY
RINGING**

CENTERING RITUAL (*FONT & TRINITY BOWL*)

Breathe in slowly – **God is present.** Breathe out slowly – **We are here.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bud Landry

L: Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen indeed!

L: The stone has been rolled away.

P: Death has lost its grip.

L: Hope awakens.

P: Life is made new.

L: This is the day the Lord has made.

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*** HYMN**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

232

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Living God, on this morning of resurrection, the world feels different. Light breaks through shadows. Hope rises where fear once lived. Life speaks where silence tried to remain. You are the God who brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and new beginnings out of endings.

We praise you for love stronger than the grave. We praise you for mercy deeper than our fears. We praise you for the promise that nothing can separate us from your presence. Open our hearts this day. Let resurrection move within us. Let hope breathe again. Let joy take root. We worship you with gratitude and wonder. In Christ we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even on Easter morning, we carry worries, regrets, and burdens we struggle to release. Yet resurrection reminds us that God meets us with grace, not condemnation. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*silently – then together.*)

God of new life, too often we live as though Good Friday were the end of the story. We allow fear to guide our decisions. We allow worry to shape our days. We allow discouragement to quiet our hope. Forgive us when we forget that resurrection is still unfolding. Forgive us when we act as though everything depends on us. Forgive us when we struggle to trust that you are already at work. Open our eyes to your presence. Renew our courage. Restore our joy. Help us live as Easter people. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are forgiven. We are restored. We are made new.

P: Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living God, by your Spirit open the Scriptures to us this day. Let resurrection speak to our lives. Give us ears to hear hope. Give us hearts ready to trust. Give us courage to live what we hear. Amen.

OT READING

ISAIAH 65:17-25 NIV

New Heavens and a New Earth

¹⁷ “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and

their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the Lord.

ANTHEM *How Great Thou Art and Majesty*

Choral Setting: J. Raney

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

*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 and sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
Jesus, who died, now glorified; His name be praised.*

*Majesty, worship his majesty;
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
Jesus, who died, now glorified; His name be praised.*

*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!"*

NT READING

LUKE 24:1-12 NIV

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” ⁸Then they remembered his words.

⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹²Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

L: The words of God, for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Resurrection Begins in the Dark

Rev. Beaver

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news we believe: God brings life where the world expects death. God brings hope where fear once lived. God brings forgiveness where guilt once remained. We believe resurrection is not only something that happened long ago. Resurrection is God's ongoing work in the world.

We believe Christ is alive. We believe love is stronger than fear. We believe grace is stronger than failure. We believe hope is stronger than despair. We believe nothing can separate us from the love of God.

This is our faith. This is our hope. This is our joy. Amen.

* HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

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COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Resurrection reminds us that life is a gift meant to be shared. We give with gratitude, trusting that God continues to bring life through generosity.

OFFERTORY *The Holy City* S. Adams/Arr. S. DeCesare
Mike Finkelstein, Trumpet

*** DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

CARRYING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*** HYMN** *Thine Is the Glory* **238**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go into the world as Easter people. Live with courage. Love with generosity. Trust with confidence. Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. And resurrection continues. Amen.

***POSTLUDE** *Hallelujah Chorus from “Messiah”* G.F. Handel

Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world is become
The kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ, and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever.

King of kings, forever and ever,
And Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever.

King of Kings! And Lord of Lords!
Hallelujah!

Triumphal Recession R. S. Morris
Larry Grove, Guest Organist

(* If able, please stand)

Today’s service is available online at valleypres.net.

EASTER LILIES IN THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY:

IN MEMORY / HONOR OF:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Marilyn and Dick Barney | Our family |
| Geri and Skip Berry | Family |
| Kristin Sells | Chuck |
| John and Barbara Bentley | Our Parents |
| Sarah Hennigar | Bill Hennigar |
| Nancy Collins | Mike Yoder |
| Wendy Schaefer | For Shut-ins |
| Pat and Rob Pearson | |
| Jeannie Cameron | Don Cameron, Jim, and Alama Wheaton |
| Sheila and Ken Frahm | Our Church! |
| Ellen and Bill Entwistle | To the Glory of God |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Linda Kucera | Jannett Lary |
| Vic Kucera | Margaret Burreson |
| Betty Kiesle Yoder | Mikey Yoder |
| Cheryl Stepp | Loving Memory of Dave and Jenny |
| Jim and Cheryl Conner | Don & Lee Conner and Thom & Lillian Conway |
| Laurel Erickson | Tom Erickson |
| Wanita Marshall | Tom Marshall |
| Linda Jorn | Mrs. Morrison |
| Jean Hein | Marvin and Douglas |
| Steve and Nona Larson | Our parents |
| Dick and carolyn Hill | carolyn's parents Jane and Burt |
| Maria Ramirez | My parents Gil and Diana |
| Linda Dyck | Kent Doffing |
| Ron and Ann Erickson | Bob Erickson, brother of Ron |
| Betty Singleton | Richard Singleton |
| Bernie and Don Nicholson | Lois Nicholson and Aggie Wilkens |
| Liz Haynes | My parents |
| Mia Cooper | |
| Donaldina Joung | |
| Craig and Kris McFall | Our parents Dana & Dorothy McFall and John & Eleanor Norton |
| Roger Lee Fisher | |
| Kay and Mike Brouwer | Our parents |

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL OR IN REHAB: Laura Penton-Williams.

MISSION QUILTERS—Monday, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF – Join us Mondays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. through April 16 in the Sweet Family Room. Contact the office for any questions (520) 625-5023 or vpc-office@valleypres.net.

BIBLE STUDY-Mondays, 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5.

PARKINSON'S CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. in the Charter Hall. This is a free class for people who have Parkinson's.



AN EVENING OF LINE DANCING—Monday at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CARDIO DRUMMING – Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

JOYFUL SPIRIT ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL – Tuesdays, at 2:15 p.m. in Sweet Family Room.

LINE DANCING WITH STEVE – Tuesdays at 12:00 p.m. for beginners only, 1:00 p.m. advanced beginners and 2:00 p.m. for advanced.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY—Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in classroom 1.

Miriam Circle-Women's Bible Study— Wednesday April 8, at 1:00 p.m. in classroom 1.

CHAIR EXERCISE WITH MIA COOPER – Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and Fridays at 12:00 p.m. in the Charter Hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE ON WEDNESDAY – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

THE CHOSEN, THURSDAYS, 2 P.M. IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER: In this Thursday's class on April 9, the disciples return from their missionary journey, processing their newfound power to perform miracles.

VIC VALADE MEMORIAL – Saturday, April 11, at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

| VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Monthly Giving Support Contributions | | Weekly Attendance / Viewing | |
| As of February 2026 | | Through Week 13 (03-29-2026) | |
| Monthly Giving Support | \$ 85,853 | Weekly Attendance Sanctuary | 319 |
| Monthly Giving Budget | 62,500 | YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary | 4,197 |
| YTD Giving Support | 202,180 | Weekly Viewing On-Line | 98 |
| YTD Giving Budget | 125,000 | YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line | 1,284 |
| <i>S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2026 Per Capita is \$43.90 per member</i> | | | |

WELCOME — EASTER SUNDAY

Welcome to Valley Presbyterian Church.

Welcome to all who enter this place. Drink deeply of the living waters of God's grace as we worship together in spirit.

Visitors: Consider yourself at home while you are here! You can pick up a Visitor's Information Packet at the Visitor's Table or the Welcome Centers. If you would like to receive more information about us, visit us at valleypres.net where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter.

Let us worship God together



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Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net

We are a Stephen Ministry Church



REV. BLAIR BEAVER, *Head of Staff*

JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*

JAN BRACHEL, *Organist/Accompanist*

REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Pastor Emerita*

REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*