



Ascension Sunday
May 21, 2023

PRELUDE *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* Wagner/
Arr. M. Hayes

POURING OUT OF WATERS/PASSING THE PEACE Pastor Craig

RINGING THE BOWL Pastor Diane

INTROIT *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Daniel 7: 7-10

In my vision, at night, I looked and there before me was a beast – terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims, trampling underfoot what was left. It had ten horns. As I was thinking about this, a little horn came up among them and three of the horns were uprooted before it. The horns had eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth that spoke boastfully. As I looked, thrones were set in place, and The Ancient of Days took his place. Clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head as white as wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The Court was seated, and the books were opened.

✠ **OPENING HYMN**

Come, Thou Almighty King

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CALL TO PRAYER

The God of majesty, led the Messiah through suffering into risen life, taking him up to the glory of heaven. Clothe us with the powers promised from on high, sending us forth to the ends of the earth as heralds of repentance, witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives with God now and always.

THE LITANY FOR ASCENSION

L: Arise, O Lord, in your strength.

P: We will praise you for your glory!

L: Let us pray with joy to Christ at the righthand of God, saying: “You are the King of glory!” You have raised the weakness of our flesh. Heal us from our sins and restore us to the full dignity of life.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: May our faith lead us to God the Father, as we travel the road Jesus trod.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: You have promised to draw all peoples to yourself; let no one be separate from your body.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: Grant that by our longing we may join you in your kingdom where your humanity and ours is glorified.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: You are true GOD, and you will be our Judge, so lead us to contemplate your tender mercies.

P: You are the king of glory!

L: O King of glory and Lord of hosts, who ascends triumphantly above the heavens, do not abandon us, but send to us the promised one, your Spirit of truth. Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever.

(Silent prayer) Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By raising Jesus from the dead, Eternal GOD declared Victory over death, powers and principalities. By Christ's ascension, God declares him LORD of all. Brothers and sisters, believe the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

ANTHEM *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* T. Colvin/Arr. S. Strite
Ellen Entwistle, Flute / Joan Dakin, Percussion

Chorus:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with you love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet.
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Chorus

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near us and far away.
These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
love;
All these are neighbors to us and you.

Chorus

Loving puts us on our knees, silently washing their feet:
This is the way we should live with you.

Chorus

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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 sin 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.**

CHORAL AMEN

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

The Acts of the Apostles 1: 4-9

On one occasion, while Jesus was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"THE THIN LINE"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed 35

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

⌄ POSTLUDE

March in E flat

Medlock

⌄ **All those who are able, please stand**

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All Worship Services are available for replay on our website.

www.valleypres.net

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY: Gee Gee Smith, in honor of Ted Smith's Birthday.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE HOSPITALIZED OR IN REHABILITATION:

Joyce Lambert

THIS WEEK:

PARKINSON'S CHAIR EXERCISES—Meets 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Charter Hall at 9:00 a.m.

THE VALLEY GALLEY – will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays under the solar panels through the month of May. Join us for a beverage and a sweet.

BIBLE REFLECTIONS—Monday, May 22, at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5 and on Zoom. This week we begin Luke 1: 39. Previous weeks are available on our website: valleypres.net.

VALLEY READERS— Meets Monday, May 22, at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. They will discuss *Life on Delay* by John Hendrickson.

PRAYER MINISTRY — Tuesday, May 23, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room.

CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS—Wednesday, May 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the Charter Hall.

CHOIR REHEARSAL—Last Choir Practice for the summer is this Wednesday at 3:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

LOOKING AHEAD:

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION—Monday May 29th, at 9:00 a.m., the American Legion Post #131 and Valley Presbyterian Church will start our Memorial Day Celebration by the fountain with a flag ceremony honoring the memory of our fallen military. We will then move to Spiritual Life Center where Green Valley resident, Chris Arundel, will share different stories than last year and present slides where he and his family were imprisoned for three years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Manila during World War II. We invite you to attend.

MEMORIAL FOR CAROL TAHSE-ROEMING—Wednesday, May 31st, at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

SUMMER MOVIE MINISTRY—Our Annual Movie Ministry begins June 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center with a showing of *God's Outlaw: The Story of William Tyndale*. Movies will be shown once a month through October.

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP – June 29, July 6 & 13, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Classroom 5. Please contact Pastor Diane at 520-625-5023 or pastordiane@valleypres.net if you would like to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! VPC would like to congratulate Megan Erickson and Chuck Dunlap on their High School Graduation!

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
April-2023		Through Week 20 (05/14/23)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 80,046	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	214
Monthly Giving Budget	88,329	* YTD 2023 Attendance Sanctuary	6,747
*YTD Giving Support	296,182	** Weekly Viewing On-Line (2 services)	153
*YTD Giving Budget	380,588	** YTD 2023 Viewing On-Line	3,224
		* YTD 2023 Attendance / On-Line	9,971
		* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	5,373
<p>* YTD = Year to Date ** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service</p> <p>S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2023 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member</p>			

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! Please enjoy a cup of coffee, lemonade and a cookie while visiting the Visitor’s Table in Fellowship Hall after the church worship service. 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.

Children are invited to worship in the sanctuary then attend Sunday School after Children’s Time.

 <p>Valley Presbyterian Church <i>Oasis of Grace</i></p>	 	<p>REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, <i>Head of Staff</i> REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, <i>Associate Pastor of Discipleship</i></p>
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<p>We are a Stephen Ministry Church</p>		