Gathering In God's Presence

Prelude *I Will Sing of the Mercies* with "Brandenburg Concerto" by Bach
Arr. L. McKechnie

Welcome and Announcements
**As we gather for worship, we invite you to sign the Friendship pad in your pews. This simple act helps us to strengthen our connection, care for one another, and to welcome those who are joining us today.*

Passing The Peace of Christ

Lighting the Christ Candle / Outpouring of Waters /Trinity Ringing

Let Us Prepare our Hearts to Worship God

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP Marie Valade

L: The world tells us to hurry.

P: God invites us to pay attention.

L: The world tells us that bigger is better.

P: God is often found in ordinary moments.

L: The Lord is near.

P: Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN** ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness **39**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Most of us do not struggle because God is absent. We struggle because life becomes noisy. We become distracted. We become hurried. We become worried. And before long, we stop noticing the grace that has been with us all along. The good news is that God does not wait for us to find our way back. God comes looking for us. So, let us confess our sin before the One who is already near. First silently and then together. Let us pray.

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

Gracious God, so often we rush through life and miss the gifts you place before us. We look for you in dramatic moments while overlooking your presence in ordinary days. We become distracted by worries, consumed by schedules, and focused on ourselves.

Forgive us. Slow our hearts. Open our eyes. Help us recognize your grace already at work around us and within us. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: Before Abraham noticed God, God had already arrived. Before the disciples were sent, Jesus had already called them. Before we seek God, God is already seeking us. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our ears to hear your Word. Open our minds to understand it. Open our hearts to receive it and open our lives to follow where you lead. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING **MATTHEW 10:40-42 NRSVUE**

40 "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes
me welcomes the one who sent me.
41 Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's
reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person
will receive a righteous person's reward.
42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones
who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their
reward."

PSALM 13 *(response)*

L**:** How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

P: How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?

L: Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

P: And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

L: But I trust in your unfailing love;

P: My heart rejoices in your salvation.

All: I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.

ANTHEM *Down by the Riverside* with *Standing in the Need of Prayer*
Arr. M. McDonald

Gonna lay down by burden down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside.
I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more.

It's me, it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.
Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.
Not my mother, not my father, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside.
It's me, it's me, O Lord!

SCRIPTURE READING **GENESIS 22:1-14 NRSVUE**

The Command to Sacrifice Isaac

22 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And
he said, "Here I am." **2** He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom
you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt
offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." **3** So Abraham rose
early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men
with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set
out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. **4** On the
third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. **5** Then Abraham
said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over
there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." **6** Abraham took
the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself
carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on
together. **7** Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I

am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

L: The words of God, for the people of God.
P: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON "When God Stops the Knife" Rev. Beaver

Responding to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith** *(From a Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Hymn** ***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy **435**

Invitation to the Offering

God has always worked through ordinary people offering ordinary gifts. Abraham offered a meal. The disciples offered themselves.

Today we offer what we have and who we are, trusting God to use both for the sake of the world.

Offertory *Wade in The Water* Arr. Brent Engstrom

*** 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**

Generous God, You have given us more blessings than we can count. Receive these gifts and use them for your work in this church, this community, and this world. May lives be touched, hope renewed, and Christ made known through what we offer today. In Jesus' name.
Amen.

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.

CARRYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN** ***Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us **187**
(verses 1, 2 and 4)

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go now in peace.

Pay attention.

Look carefully.

The God who came to Abraham, the Christ who sent the disciples, and the Spirit who gives life are already at work around you.

May you have eyes to notice, hearts to trust, and lives ready to respond.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always. Amen.

***POSTLUDE** *Exaltation Medley* Arr. T. Wilhelmi

(* If able, please stand)

Worship doesn't end at the doors. It continues wherever you go, because the God we met here today is already present in the ordinary moments of our lives. If todays service speaks to you, you can share it or revisit it anytime at valleypres.net

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY: George and April Boysen, in honor of their 56th Wedding Anniversary, and Gary Heintz in honor of Sandy Heintz Birthday.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL OR IN REHAB: John Agner and Monte Crook.

Want to stay updated on daily happenings?
Subscribe to our daily e-blast by emailing the church
@ vpc-office@valleypres.net or call us at 520-625-5023.

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WELCOME TO VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are glad you are here. Set against the beauty of the Santa Rita Mountains, Valley Presbyterian Church is a place where people come to worship, to heal, to reconnect, and to remember they do not walk through life alone. Some arrive here with deep faith. Some arrive carrying questions. Some simply come looking for peace. Wherever you are on the journey, you are welcome in this place. We believe God meets people in everyday life, in friendship, in prayer, in laughter, in service, in music, and in the quiet moments when the soul finally slows down enough to listen. So, take a breath. Rest for a while. Let the noise of the world fade for just a moment. There is grace here. There is room for you here.

VISITORS: Please consider yourself at home while you are with us today. Visitor Information Packets are available at the Visitor's Table and Welcome Centers. You may also fill out the welcome card if you would like someone to reach out to you. You can learn more about the life and ministry of Valley Presbyterian Church at **valleypres.net**, where you can sign up for our daily Eblast reflections and monthly newsletter. ***Welcome to God's house*!**

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
As of May 31, 2026		Through Week 25 (06-21-2026)	
Monthly Giving Support	$ 48,780	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	151
Monthly Giving Budget	62,500	YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary	7,136
YTD Giving Support	369,849	Weekly Viewing On-Line	76
YTD Giving Budget	312,500	YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line	2,431
S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2026 Per Capita is $43.90 per member			

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

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

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

CROSSROADS MISSION – We are collecting school supplies and backpacks for children served by Nogales Crossroads Mission, many of whose families do not qualify for public assistance. Collections will be held Sunday, June 28, and Sunday, July 5. You may sponsor a backpack for $25, and we will do the shopping for you.

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION— Join us as we celebrate on Sunday, July 5, at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please register during Sunday Fellowship on June 28 or call the church office at (520) 625-5023.

BACK TO SCHOOL: A STRONG START FOR EVERY CHILD
We are collecting new clothing and monetary donations for the children of St. Andrew's Children's Clinic after worship each Sunday, June 28–July 26. Look for our table in Charter Hall. Help us give every child a strong start to the school year.

The Office will be closed Friday, July 3, in Observance of Independence Day.

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

STAFF

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REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Pastor Emerita*
JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*
JAN BRACHEL, *Organist/Accompanist*
CINDY BROWN, *Communications/IT Specialist*
LINDA HESTER, *Business Office/Events Coordinator*
MARIA RAMIREZ *Reception/Administrative*
GILBER GUERRA & MARTIN LAMARCHE, *Custodians*
STEVE HART, *Sound Technician*
ALICE SANCHEZ, Nursery Attendant
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*