



July 23, 2023

PRELUDE *Shall We Gather At the River* with *Prelude in C Major*

Lowry/J.S. Bach

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Posada Life

POURING OF WATERS, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor Craig

RINGING THE BOWL

INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God*

288

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Diane

According to Isaiah, the LORD said: “My word shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Jesus said: “My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me, to where I give them eternal life.” While the Apostle Paul wrote to the church: “Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the LORD Jesus.”

✠ OPENING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

14

CALL TO PRAYER

In Jesus Christ, Almighty GOD opened for us a new and living way into the presence of GOD. Searching for pure hearts and constant wills we worship in prayer and truth.

THE UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal GOD, author of our lives and end of our pilgrimage; guide us by your word and spirit amid all the perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety coming to eternal rest in you. Draw near to us in Christ, making yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our daily lives, make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may treasure relationship with you above all else. We ask this through our LORD, Jesus Christ, your Son, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. (Silent Prayer) Amen

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When we cry “Abba, Father!” it is God’s very spirit in us, bearing witness with the Holy Spirit, that we are children of GOD. So ask, and it will be given you. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door

will be opened to you. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✠ **GLORIA PATRI**

581

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.

ANTHEM: *River in Judea* J. Feldman/Arr. J. Leavitt
Maureen Ramsay, Kurt Hargleroad—Soloists

Often times I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody know.
Late at night I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on, go on.

There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing rover that my soul cries out to know.

I believe it keeps on travelin' but it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I'm weary and downhearted, long for the song it sings,
For the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings.

May the time not be too distant when we meet by
the river shore.

'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more:

There is a river in Judea, hallelujah!

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

Genesis 28: 10-22

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of

God; this is the gate of heaven.”

Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“THIN PLACES, BETHEL”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Reception of the New Members

Bill Bodle

Katie Carter

Kris Sells

Lil Bodle

Linda Hester

Sally Smith

Bruce Campbell

Craig McFall

Debbie Spohn

Dianne Campbell

Kris McFall

Martha Van Vactor

Jack Carter

Ed Schmidt

⌘ **HYMN**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

69

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

C.H. Gabriel/E. Lanier

Pam Coggins, Oboe

****Please print your name in the fellowship register: Friendship Pads in the pews are a great way to meet your neighbor.***

***** If you have a special prayer request, please fill out the blue card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Our Pastors and the Prayer Ministry Team will pray for your request. There is also a box in the Narthex you may place it in as well.***

⌄ DOXOLOGY 606

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.

⌄ HYMN *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* 66

⌄ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**⌄ POSTLUDE *When in Our Music God is Glorified* C. Stanford/
M. Gaspard**

⌄ 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: Randy & Debbie VanHyfte, in celebration of their 20th Wedding Anniversary.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED OR IN REHABILITATION:

THIS WEEK:

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

NO BIBLE REFLECTIONS JULY 24 AND 31—Previous weeks are available on our website: valleypres.net.

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

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

LINE DANCING—Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

FUN FRIDAYS—Friday at 1:00 p.m. in Charter Hall.

VALLEY READERS—July 24 at 2:00 p.m. in classroom 1. *Light On Bone A Georgia O'Keefe Mystery*, written by Kathryn Lasky. Discussion led by Helen Phillips.

JESUS EATS—Thursday, August 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 10:00 a.m. in classroom 1. We will talk about Jesus' meals and why were they mentioned in the bible. Your teacher is Pastor Diane with food provided by Anne Morrison.

SERMON NOTES:

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
June-2023		Through Week 29 (07/16/23)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 64,503	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	177
Monthly Giving Budget	36,188	* YTD 2023 Attendance Sanctuary	8,491
*YTD Giving Support	429,099	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	93
*YTD Giving Budget	458,377	** YTD 2023 Viewing On-Line	4,214
		* YTD 2023 Attendance / On-Line	12,705
		* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	6,749
* YTD = Year to Date		** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service	
S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2023 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member			

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.



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We are a Stephen Ministry Church



REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, *Head of Staff*
REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Associate
Pastor of Discipleship*
CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*
JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*
JAN BRACHEL, *Organist/Accompanist*
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*