Photo by Reed Olson

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *Pass It On* Arr. M. Hayes

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 *(Based on Psalm 119:129-135)* Eloise Fredrickson

L: God's decrees are wonderful; therefore, we keep them with all our hearts.

P: The unfolding of God's Word gives light and understanding.

L: We come longing for wisdom, grace, and truth.

P: Let God's face shine upon us and teach us the way of life.

L: Come, let us seek the treasure that cannot be taken from us.

P: Let us worship the living God.

OPENING HYMN** ***God of Grace and God of Glory **307**
(verses 1, 3 and 4)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gracious God, you are wiser than all our wisdom and more faithful than all our striving. You meet us when we are uncertain, strengthen us when we are weak, and guide us when we cannot see the road ahead.

Your Kingdom is hidden among us like treasure in a field and growing among us like a tiny seed. Open our eyes to recognize your presence. Open our minds to receive your truth. Open our hearts to love what you love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When Solomon was invited to ask God for anything, he confessed that he did not know how to lead on his own. We also come before God admitting that we do not always know the way.

Trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins together.

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

L: And now together.

Merciful God, you offer us wisdom, but we often settle for certainty. You offer us your Kingdom, but we chase lesser treasures. You teach us to listen, but we are quick to speak. You invite us to trust, but we try to control.

Forgive us for confusing our desires with your will. Give us understanding hearts. Teach us to recognize what matters most. Lead us in the way of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: Christ Jesus died, was raised, and now intercedes for us. Nothing in life or in death, nothing in the present or in the future, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***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

Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness. Quiet the voices that distract us and open us to the voice of God. Give us minds ready to learn, hearts willing to listen, and lives prepared to respond. Through the living Word, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING **1 KINGS 3: 5-12 NRSVUE**

5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." **6** And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. **7** And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. **8** And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. **9** Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. **11** God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, **12** I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

ANTHEM *Rain Down* J. Cortez/Arr. J. Carter

Rain down, rain down,
Rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down,
Rain down your love, God of life.

Faithful and true is the word of our God.
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right;
Full of God's love is the earth.

We who reverse and find hope in our God
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.
God will protect us from darkness and death;
God will not leave us to starve.

God of creation, we long for the truth;
You are the water of life that we thirst.
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,
All of our hope lies in you.

GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 13:31-33,44-52 NRSVUE**

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a
mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; [32] it is the smallest
of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and
becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its
branches."

The Parable of the Yeast

33 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Three Parables

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

51 “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

SERMON “An Understanding Heart” Rev. Beaver

Responding to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith** **The Apostles' Creed**

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, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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.

Hymn of Response** ***Be Thou My Vision **450**
(verses 1 and 2)

Invitation to the Offering

Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. Having received the treasure of God's grace, we now offer our lives and our gifts so that others may discover the love already reaching toward them.

Offertory *Abide With Me* W. Monk/
Arr. D. Hustad, T. Smith

*** 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 far more than we could ever deserve. Receive these gifts and use them to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, care for those in need, strengthen your Church, and bring hope to the world. Take not only these offerings but also our hearts, our hands, and our lives, that everything we do may honor you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: Princecella Torres and Viana Robles

INVITATION

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

L: Let us welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

P: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's Church. We promise to walk beside you, to pray with you and for you, to encourage you in faith, and to join with you in the worship and mission of Jesus Christ. Welcome to Valley Presbyterian Church.

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.

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CARRYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN** ***Called as Partners in Christ's Service **761**
(verses 1 and 4)

***CHARGE**

Go into the world with listening hearts.

Look for the seed that is already growing.
Trust the grace that is quietly working.
Recognize the treasure hidden in ordinary places.

And remember:

Wisdom is not knowing everything.

Wisdom is learning to recognize what matters most.

BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you, now and forever.

Amen.

***POSTLUDE** *Prelude in F Major* J.S. Bach

(* 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 today's service speaks to you, you can share it or revisit it anytime at valleypres.net

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY: Jim and Cheryl Conner, in Celebration of their Daughters' Anniversary.

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

INSTALLATION OF REV. BLAIR BEAVER—Today at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

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 June 30, 2026		Through Week 29 (07-19-2026)	
Monthly Giving Support	$ 54,528	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	150
Monthly Giving Budget	62,500	YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary	7,779
YTD Giving Support	424,377	Weekly Viewing On-Line	104
YTD Giving Budget	375,000	YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line	2,784
S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2026 Per Capita is $43.90 per member			

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.

VALLEY READERS – Monday, July 27, 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. The Valley Readers will be discussing *The Penguin Lessons: What I Learned from a Remarkable Bird,* by Tom Michell. Hellen Phillips will lead the discussion.

CARDIO DRUMMING – Cardio Drumming, Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

LINE DANCING WITH STEVE AND NANCY—Tuesdays, starting at noon for Beginners, 1:00 p.m. for Advanced Beginners and 2:00 p.m. for Advanced 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.

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 today. Look for our table in Charter Hall. Help us give every child a strong start to the school year.

UNKNOWN WOMEN OF THE BIBLE—August 4 –September 8, Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5. Facilitated by Cheryl Conner.

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting after the worship service for **Sunday, August 9th,** to accept the resignation of Frank Coggins as President of the Corporation and to elect Ron Darrah as President to fill his term until the end of the year. All active church members are invited to come and make your vote count.

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

STAFF

REV. BLAIR BEAVER, Senior Pastor *Head of Staff*
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*
GILBERT GUERRA & MARTIN LAMARCHE, *Custodians*
STEVE HART, *Sound Technician*
ALICE SANCHEZ, Nursery Attendant
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*