GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *A Living Prayer* Ron Block

Linda Freeman, Soloist, Joan Dakin, Guitar - Al Smith, Bass

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 Martha VanVactor

L: Come, not because you have everything figured out, but because God is already here.

P: We come trusting the grace of God.

L: Come with your questions, your hopes, your burdens, and your need.

P: We come seeking eyes to recognize what God is doing among us.

L: God is faithful in what we understand and in what we cannot yet see.

P: So we will trust the Lord and worship with grateful hearts.

L: Let us worship God.

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gracious God, you have been faithful in every generation. You are present before we recognize you, working before we understand, and loving us before we ever learn how to love you. Open our eyes this morning. Quiet the voices that keep us from hearing you. Free us from the assumptions that keep us from seeing one another clearly. Teach us to recognize your grace already moving among us and draw us more deeply into the life of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen**

CALL TO CONFESSION

God sees beyond appearances and knows the truth of our hearts. Trusting not in our goodness, but in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sins. First silently and then together. Let us pray.

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

L: And now together.

Merciful God, we confess that we do not always see clearly. We notice differences before we notice people. We remember failures longer than we remember grace. We judge quickly and listen slowly. And sometimes we become so certain about where you should be working that we miss where you already are.

Forgive us. Cleanse our hearts of pride, fear, bitterness, and judgment. Give us eyes shaped by the mercy of Jesus Christ, so that we may see ourselves and one another through your grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: God's mercy is greater than our failures, deeper than our divisions, and stronger than our past. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

P: 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

Living God, your Word is already speaking before we learn how to listen. Open our ears. Open our hearts. Open our eyes. Help us recognize what you are doing among us and within us, that your Word may take root in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT **GENESIS 45: 1-15 NRSVUE**

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood
by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed
with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so
loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard
it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his
brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came
closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And
now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me
here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been
in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will
be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you
a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not
you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and
lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to
my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord
of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of
Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s
children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will
provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so
that you and your household and all that you have will not come to
poverty.’ 12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that

it is my own mouth that speaks to you. [13] You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." [14] Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. [15] And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

ANTHEM *God So Loved the World* J. Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
That who so believeth, believeth in Him
Should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
But that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world.

GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 15: 10-28 NRSVUE**

Things That Defile

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: [11] it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." [12] Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" [13] He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. [14] Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." [15] But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." [16] Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? [17] Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? [18] But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. [19] For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder,

adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. [20] These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. [22] Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." [23] But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." [24] He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." [25] But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." [26] He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." [27] She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." [28] Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

SERMON "What Does Persistent Faith Recognize That Everyone Else Misses?"
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

God has given to us with generosity and grace. With grateful hearts, let us now offer our gifts to God.

Offertory *Jesus* Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash
Linda Freeman, Soloist-Joan Dakin, Guitar - Al Smith, Bass

*** 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, receive these gifts and the lives they represent. Use them beyond what we can see and beyond what we can imagine, that through them others may discover your mercy, your hope, and your love.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS: Sandra Mazur and Carolyn McDonnell

CARRYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN** ***Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound **649**
(verses 1 and 4)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Go with your eyes open. Look beyond the obvious and trust that God is already at work —even when you cannot yet see it..

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and always.

Amen.

***POSTLUDE** *Benediction Medley* M. Hayes

(* 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 46th Anniversary.

THE ROSE ON THE BAPTISMAL FONT: Is in Memory of Gerry Appleton

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

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 July 31, 2026		Through Week 32 (08-09-2026)	
Monthly Giving Support	$ 40,703	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	149
Monthly Giving Budget	62,500	YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary	8,274
YTD Giving Support	465,091	Weekly Viewing On-Line	82
YTD Giving Budget	437,500	YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line	3,156
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.

AN EVENING OF LINE DANCING – Monday, August 17, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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

PRAYER MINISTRY – Tuesdays, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room.

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.

UNNAMED WOMEN OF THE BIBLE – Scripture Study 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5. Join us in person or by Zoom. This six-week class is hosted by Cheryl Conner. The third class is August 18.

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

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

THE ORIGIN OF HYMN MUSIC WITH MAUREEN RAMSAY AND LINDA FREEMAN – Friday, August 21, at 2:00 p.m. Join Maureen and Linda in the Spiritual Life Center. Come listen to beautiful Hymn Music, sing-along or tap your foot.

CARD MAKING FOR YOUTH ON THEIR OWN IS BACK – Wednesday, August 26, at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. The students enjoy and appreciate receiving these cards with positive messages, inspiration, encouragement, and love.

Please recycle your bulletin in the blue bins.

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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*
GILBERT GUERRA & MARTIN LAMARCHE, *Custodians*
STEVE HART, *Sound Technician*
ALICE SANCHEZ, Nursery Attendant
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*