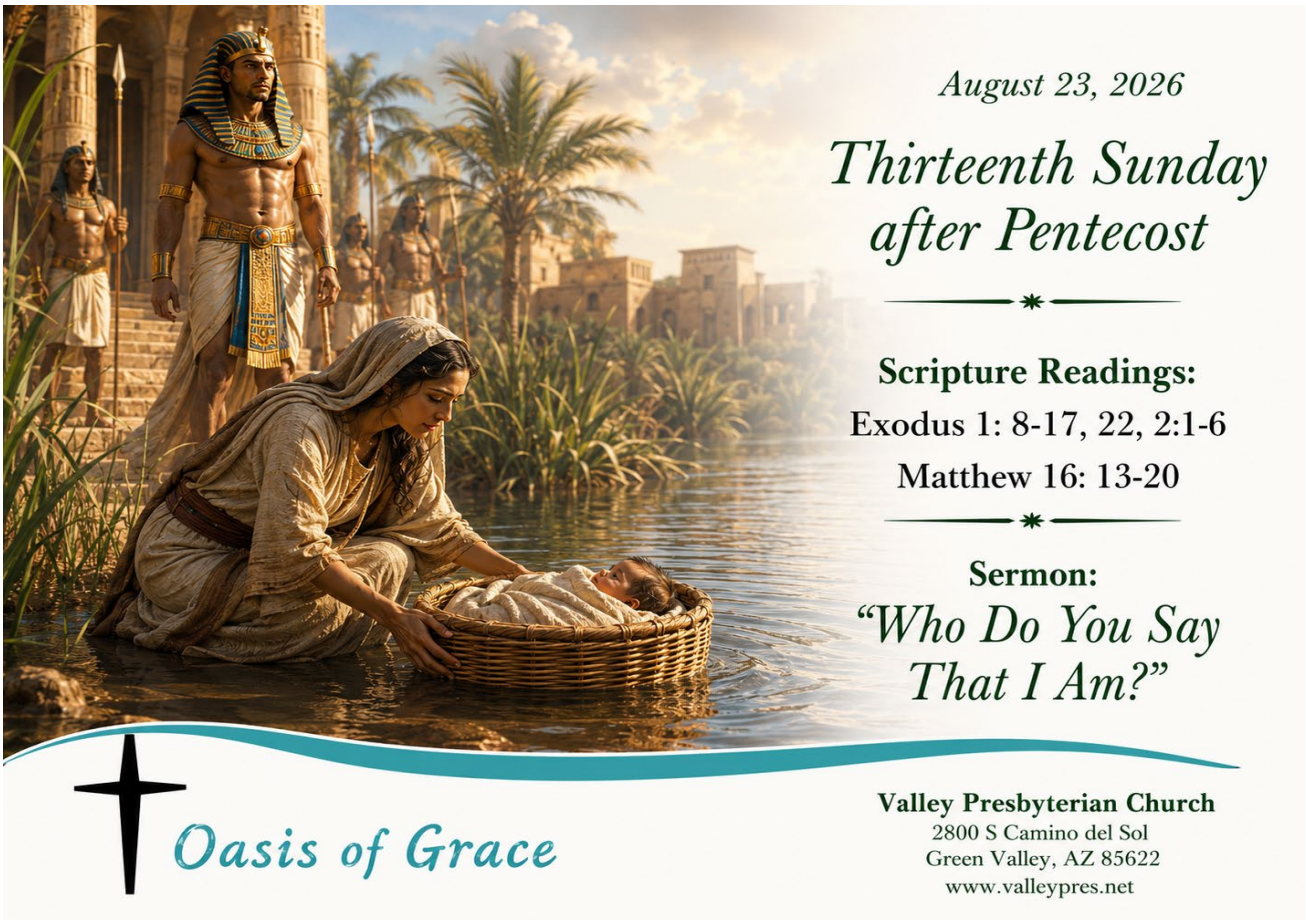

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* M. Hayes/M. Gaspard

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.*

A MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

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 Linda Freeman

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

P: When fear surrounds us, God remains faithful.

L: When the way before us is uncertain,
P: God is already there.

L: When the world teaches us to fear one another,
P: God teaches us another way.

L: Come, let us turn our hearts toward the Lord.
P:Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN** ***Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! **1**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Holy and gracious God, you have been faithful in every generation. Before we sought you, you were already near. Before we called your name, you knew ours. You meet us in places of courage and uncertainty, in moments of confidence and doubt, and you continue to call ordinary people into your extraordinary grace. As we worship you, quiet the voices that compete for our attention. Open our eyes to your presence. Open our ears to your Word. Open our hearts to the movement of your Spirit. Help us to see more clearly, trust more deeply, and follow more freely. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God already knows the truth about us and still invites us near. We do not confess in order to earn God's mercy. We confess because God's mercy has already made honesty possible.

Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sin together. Firstly, silently and then together. Let us pray.

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

L: And now together.

P: **Merciful God, we confess that fear sometimes teaches us how to see. We see strangers and imagine threats. We see differences and create distance. We see uncertainty and grasp for control. We confess that we sometimes speak of trusting Christ while allowing other voices to shape the way we live. Forgive us. Free us from the fear that narrows our vision. Teach us to see our neighbors with compassion, ourselves with grace, and our world through the eyes of Christ. Give us courage to follow where you lead. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news: God does not wait for perfect people. In Jesus Christ, grace meets us where we are, forgiveness sets us free, and love calls us forward.

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

Living God, your Word has spoken through generations, and your Spirit still speaks today. Quiet what distracts us. Open what has become closed within us. Give us ears to hear, hearts to understand, and courage to receive whatever you would show us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament — Exodus 1:8-17, 22:1-6 NRSV

The Israelites Are Oppressed

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. [9] He said to his
people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful
than we. [10] Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and,
in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from
the land." [11] Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with
forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for
Pharaoh. [12] But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and
spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. [13] The Egyptians
subjected the Israelites to hard servitude [14] and made their lives bitter with
hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They
were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

[15] The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named
Shiphrah and the other Puah, [16] "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew
women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a
daughter, she shall live." [17] But the midwives feared God; they did not do as
the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Birth and Youth of Moses

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite
woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said.

ANTHEM *Heavenly Sunlight* Arr. M. Hayes

Walking in sunlight, all of my journey;
Over the mountains, through the deep vale;
Jesus has said, "I'll never forsake thee,"
Promise divine that never can fail.

Heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight,
Flooding my soul with glory divine:
Hallelujah! I am rejoicing,
Singing His praises, Jesus is mine.

Shadows around me, shadows above me,
Never conceal my Savior and Guide;
He is the light, in Him is no darkness;
Ever I'm walking close to His side.

In the bright sunlight, ever rejoicing,
Pressing my way to mansions above;
Singing His praises, gladly I'm walking,
Walking in sunlight, sunlight of love.

GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 16:13-20 NRSV**

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" [14] And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." [15] He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [16] Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." [17] And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. [18] And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." [20] Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

SERMON **"Who Do You Say That I Am?"** 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** ***Jesus Call Us **720**
(verses 1, 2 and 4)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Grace has already found us. Love has already been given. And every good gift we have received becomes an opportunity to share in what God is doing. With grateful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY *Softly and Tenderly* W. Thompson, R. Brown
Marie Valade, Soloist

*** 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**

Gracious God, receive these gifts and the lives they represent. Take what we offer and use it beyond what we can see—to feed, welcome, heal, teach, comfort, and bear witness to the love of Christ. May our generosity become part of your grace at work in the world. 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.

Carrying God's Word into the World

Hymn** ***The Church's One Foundation **321**
(verses 1 and 5)

***Charge and Benediction**

L. Go into this week remembering:

Fear is not the deepest truth about this world.

Christ is still present. Grace is still at work. And God is not finished with any of us.

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.

L: And ALL of God's children said

P: Amen!

***POSTLUDE** *Rigaudon* D. Hegarty

(* 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: This week we are celebrating two Wedding Anniversaries, Dennis and Maureen Brealey Celebrating 56 years and Doug and Susan McCune Celebrating 49 years.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL OR IN REHAB: Monte Crook, and Larry Sharp.

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 33 (08-16-2026)	
Monthly Giving Support	$ 40,703	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	171
Monthly Giving Budget	62,500	YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary	8,445
YTD Giving Support	465,091	Weekly Viewing On-Line	79
YTD Giving Budget	437,500	YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line	3,235
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.

VALLEY READERS – Monday, August 24, at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. They will be discussing the book, *Miss Morgan's Book Brigade,* facilitated by Kris Sells.

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 – Will skip rehearsal Tuesday, August 25. Rehearsal will resume, Tuesday, September 1, 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.

JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF—Mondays and Thursdays, October 5 –29 in the Sweet Family Room, at 1:00 p.m. with carolyn Hill and Deb Jones. Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net or call (520) 625-5023.

Please recycle your bulletin in the blue bins.

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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*