



September 3, 2023

Sacrament of Communion

PRELUDE

Softly and Tenderly

Arr. D. Wagner

POURING OUT OF WATERS/PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor Diane

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

Chuck Ramsay

Here we have gathered as God's people, inspired by the Spirit ... to witness more effectively, to listen more deeply, to speak more truthfully, to live more peacefully, to love more energetically, to teach more eloquently, to pray more seriously, to worship more enthusiastically, to celebrate more joyfully, to sing more faithfully, to give more generously, to serve more compassionately.

✠ **OPENING HYMN**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

265

CALL TO PRAYER

God wants us to be ourselves. But every time we hurt one another, or ourselves, we get further and further away from who we are. It is in our confession, in admitting the truth of our lives, that we can be our genuine selves again. Let us join in our prayer of confession together.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (by Martin Luther)

Lord, empty vessels need to be filled. Lord, fill them. We are weak in the faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us and make us fervent that our love may go out to our neighbors. We may not have a strong and firm faith; at times we doubt and are unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help us. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. (Silent prayer) Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: In our love for others, we discover God's love for us. In our forgiving of others, we learn once more how deeply God has forgiven us. Friends, this is the good news offered to us!

P: We are God's children, called to be different, called to act different, called to live as new people. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven!

RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING

Sanctuary

701

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

C. Gabriel/
M. Hayes, M. Gaspard

****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. There is a box in the Narthex you may place it in as well. Our Pastors and Prayer Ministry Team will pray for your request.***

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

(The Message)

Romans 12: 9-21

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL AMEN

SERMON

“HOW TO FIGHT EVIL”

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Invitation Anthem *The Bread and the Wine Are Here*
J.W. Arthur/ Arr. J. Reed

The bread and the wine are here;
The feast is here.
Come now, all who hunger and thirst.
Come needy; come now without fear.
Drink joy, as the last become first!

Come in; sit down; there's room at the table;
Enjoy the feast love has spread for you.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power

and the glory, forever. Amen.

Word of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please hold your elements until all may receive together)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

⌄ **HYMN** *I Come with Joy* 515

⌄ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

⌄ **POSTLUDE** *Plein Jeu a La Couperin* G. Young

⌄ **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: Sue Horton, In Honor of Mark Horton and the 54 years we shared together.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED OR IN REHABILITATION: Marlene Farver

TODAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY— Please drop off your non-perishable items in Fellowship Hall.

Labor Day, September 4th the Church will be closed.

THIS WEEK:

NO PARKINSON'S CHAIR EXERCISES—This Monday, September 4, it will return Wednesday, September 6, and Friday, September 8, in the Charter Hall at 9:00 a.m.

NO BIBLE REFLECTIONS—Monday, September 4. Please join Pastor Craig Monday, September 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5 and on Zoom. We begin Luke 11:37. Previous weeks are available on our website: valleypres.net.

PRAYER MINISTRY — Tuesday, September 5, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room.

JOYFUL SPIRIT ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL—Tuesday, September 5 at 2:00 p.m.

CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS—Wednesday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m. in Charter Hall.

Movie Ministry *AMAZING GRACE*—September 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. Pastor Craig will be the facilitator.

THE BOOK-THE STORY OF GOD CONTINUES—Thursday, September 7, at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5. Pastor Diane and Chuck Ramsey will be your teachers.

HUNGER WALK 2023—The Green Valley Hunger Walk 2023 will be Saturday, September 9 at 8:00 a.m. at the Quail Creek Veterans Municipal Park in Sahuarita.

CHOIR RETREAT— Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

MISSION BREAKFAST— Saturday, September 17, at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bob and Kristi Rice Missionaries to South Sudan. Tickets are \$5.00, on sale today.

SERMON NOTES:

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
July-2023		Through Week 35 (08/27/23)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 61,506	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	188
Monthly Giving Budget	45,973	* YTD 2023 Attendance Sanctuary	9,631
*YTD Giving Support	490,605	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	119
*YTD Giving Budget	504,350	** YTD 2023 Viewing On-Line	4,864
		* YTD 2023 Attendance / On-Line	14,495
		* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	7,646
* 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*