GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* Arr. M. McDonald

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS /MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

**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

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

CALL TO WORSHIP Eloise Fredrickson

L: Jesus Christ has promised to be among us.
P: When we gather in his name, we do not gather alone.
L: When love is difficult, Christ remains among us.
P: When relationships are strained, Christ calls us toward one another.
L: Come, let us worship the God whose mercy makes room for us all.
P: Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN** ***Come, Sing, O Church in Joy! **305**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gracious God, you gather people from different places, experiences, and stories and call us one body in Jesus Christ. You remain faithful when our love grows tired. You speak truth when we would rather remain silent, and you make a way toward one another when we have forgotten how.

Be present among us now. Open our hearts to your Word, receive our praise, and draw us again to the Table where Christ welcomes and feeds his people. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are called to love one another, yet we sometimes protect our pride more carefully than our relationships. Trusting the mercy of God, let us confess our sin. First silently and then together. Let us Pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(silently-then together)*

L: And now together.

Merciful God, you have called us to love one another, but we confess that love is often difficult. We avoid conversations that require courage. We

speak about people instead of speaking with them. We hold tightly to old injuries and assume the worst about one another.

Forgive us. Give us the humility to listen, the courage to speak truth with love, and the grace to seek one another again. Restore what has been wounded among us and teach us to live as the body of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: God does not abandon us to our failures. In Jesus Christ, grace has already come near. We are forgiven, restored, and called once again into the life of God's people.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, Thanks be to God.

*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.**

Hearing God's Word

Time with Young Disciples

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, speak your truth among us. Give us ears willing to listen, hearts willing to change, and faith to trust that Christ is present wherever his people gather in his name. Amen.

EPISTLE READING **ROMANS 13: 8-14 NRSVUE**

Love for One Another

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves
another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit
adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and
any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your
neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is
the fulfilling of the law.

An Urgent Appeal

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for
you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we
became believers; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw
off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk
decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and
licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord
Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

ANTHEM *In the Singing* Arr. J. Reed

In the singing, in the silence,
In the hand expectant, open,
In the blessing, in the breaking
In the Presence at this table.

Jesus Christ, be the wine and grace:
Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,
In the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing,
In the circle of your people.

Amen

GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 18: 15-20 NRSVUE**

Reproving Another Who Sins
15 "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when
the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that
one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you,
so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three
witnesses. 17 If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and
if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you
as a gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth
will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in
heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything
you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or
three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

SERMON "The Space Between Us" Rev. Blair

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From **A Brief Statement of Faith***

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION** ***Blessed Be the Tie That Binds **306**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has already given us mercy, belonging, and a place at Christ's Table. With grateful hearts, let us share what God has entrusted to us for the healing of our neighbors and the life of the world.

OFFERTORY *Prelude Op. 23, No. 4* *Rachmaninoff*

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 use them to mend what has been broken, strengthen the bonds between your people, and carry the love of Christ beyond these walls. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE – Sharing the Bread and Cup *(please hold, we will partake together)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, you have met us at this Table and fed us with the life of Christ. Send us from this place with honest words, listening hearts, and the courage to seek peace. Where distance has grown between us, remind us that Christ is already there. Make us one body, faithful in love and generous in mercy. Amen.

CARRYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN** ***We are One in the Spirit **300**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Go into the world owing no one anything except love. Trust the grace that has already brought you to the Table.

May the God who creates, the Christ who feeds, and the Holy Spirit who strengthens, bless you and keep you. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***POSTLUDE** *Sing to the Lord* Lani Smith

(* 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: Mike and Kay Brouwer, Celebrating their 60th Anniversary.

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

DON'T MISS WHAT'S HAPPENING AT VPC!
Get church news, articles, upcoming events, reminders, and more delivered through our **Daily E-Blast.**
Sign up today: vpc-office@valleypres.net |520-625-5023

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
As of July 31, 2026		Through Week 35 (08-30-2026)	
Monthly Giving Support	$ 40,703	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	166
Monthly Giving Budget	62,500	YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary	8,775
YTD Giving Support	465,091	Weekly Viewing On-Line	115
YTD Giving Budget	437,500	YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line	3,432
S. Ginader - VPC treasurer - steveginader@gmail.com - 952-687-1879 2026 Per Capita is $43.90 per member			

GET CONNECTED WITH VPC on the **BREEZE** application

The Breeze app helps keep you connected to the life of Valley Presbyterian Church. Use Breeze to access church information, stay connected with our congregation, and keep your own contact information up to date.

New to Breeze? We'll help you get started.
If you haven't signed up yet—or if you have Breeze but aren't quite sure how to use it—contact the church office. We'll help you get connected and show you around.

We encourage every VPC member to become familiar with Breeze.
Contact the church office at vpc-office@valleypres.net or 520-625-5023.

NOT SURE ABOUT BREEZE? THAT'S OKAY. WE'LL HELP.
If you haven't signed up for Breeze—or you are signed up but aren't sure what to do next—bring your phone or tablet and let us help you. Breeze is becoming an important way for VPC members to stay connected, and we want everyone to be comfortable using it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VPC OFFICE IS CLOSED ON LABOR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH. THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES ON MONDAY.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRY LUNCHEON – Thursday, September 17 at 11:30 a.m. at La Posada. Please sign-up Sunday after worship, September 6 & 13.

PARKINSON'S CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS –Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. in the Charter Hall. This is a free class for people who have Parkinson's.

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

Prayer Ministry – Our Prayer Ministry meets weekly at 9:30 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room. All are welcome to come pray.

Unnamed Women of the Bible –Scripture Study, Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5. Join us in person or by Zoom. This six-week class is facilitated by Cheryl Conner.

Line Dancing with Steve and Nancy – Tuesdays, in the Fellowship Hall. 12:00 p.m. for Beginners, 1:00 p.m. for Advanced Beginners, and 2:00 p.m. for Advanced.

Chair Exercise with Mia Cooper – Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and Fridays at 12:00 p.m. in the Charter Hall.

Patio Sale Sort – Thursday at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Chosen, Thursdays, 2 p.m., Spiritual Life Center: On Thursday (September 10), we watch Episode 2 of Season 4 in *The Chosen.* Simon is given a new name, and the disciples learn about forgiveness.

Green Valley/Amado Hunger Walk—Join the "VPC Walks For Hunger" Team this Saturday, September 12, at the Historic Canoa Ranch in Green Valley, AZ. Scan the QR Code and sign-up today!

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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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*
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