GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *More Love To Thee, O Christ* 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. Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for cookies and coffee.*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L. The peace of Christ be with you.
P. And also with you.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE / OUTPOURING OF WATERS /TRINITY RINGING

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO WORSHIP GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP Marcia MacDonald

L. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
P. God's compassion reaches farther than we imagine.
L. God welcomes the weary, searches for the forgotten, and cares for every life.
P. We come to receive God's mercy and learn to rejoice when mercy reaches others.
L. Come, let us worship the God whose goodness cannot be measured.
P. Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN** ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee **611**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gracious God, your mercy is deeper than our failures and wider than the boundaries we draw. You care for people we overlook, seek those whom others have dismissed, and give generously without asking our permission.

Gather us beneath the shelter of your grace. Quiet the comparisons that harden our hearts. Open our eyes to the goodness already surrounding us and teach us to rejoice in your love wherever it appears. We worship you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God already knows the resentment we carry, the judgments we make, and the mercy we find difficult to extend. We may come honestly, trusting that the God who questions Jonah also remains beside him. Let us confess our sin.

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

L. And now together.

P. Merciful God, we are grateful when grace finds us and resentful when it reaches someone else. We count what we have done, compare what others have received, and quietly decide who deserves your kindness. We cling to our comfort while overlooking people made in your image. We care deeply about what shelters us and too little about those beyond our shade.

Forgive us.

Remind us that everything we have rests upon your generosity. Free us from the need to measure your mercy. Give us the heart of Jesus Christ, who welcomes sinners and makes room for us all. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

L. Hear the good news: God's mercy has already reached us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and welcomed home. The grace that holds us is wide enough to hold our neighbor too.

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 reaches the places within us that we would rather leave undisturbed. As Scripture is read, help us recognize your mercy, receive it with gratitude, and see others through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT **JONAH 3:10-4:11 NRSV**

Jonah 3:10–4:11

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

Jonah's Anger

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 3 And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

6 The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Jonah Is Reproved

9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?"
And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." [10] Then the LORD said, "You are
concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did
not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. [11] And
should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there
are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know
their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

ANTHEM *Alleluia* A. Miller

Alleluia.
Lift your voice, O Lord, give your thanks,
Give your praise, all glory and honor are yours
Forevermore!
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING **MATTHEW 20:1-16 NRSV**

The Laborers in the Vineyard

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in
the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing with the
laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3] When
he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the
marketplace, [4] and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will
pay you whatever is right.' So they went. [5] When he went out again about
noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. [6] And about five o'clock he
went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are
you standing here idle all day?' [7] They said to him, 'Because no one has
hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' [8] When evening
came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and
give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the
first.' [9] When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received

a denarius. [10] Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. [11] And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, [12] saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' [13] But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14] Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. [15] Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' [16] So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

SERMON **"The Shade We Did Not Grow"** Rev. Beaver

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 gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE** ***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy **435**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Everything we offer was first received. Our time, our abilities, our possessions, and our very lives rest upon God's generosity. With gratitude, let us share what God has placed in our hands.

OFFERTORY *Thy Word* with *Winter* from Vivaldi — A. Smith, Arr. L. McKechnie

*** 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 to shelter the weary, welcome the stranger, and carry the mercy of Jesus Christ beyond these walls. 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** ***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending **716**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

We are all living under shade we did not grow. Go with gratitude for the mercy that shelters you. Make room for those still standing in the heat. Rejoice whenever God's grace reaches another life.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and always. And all of God's children said – **AMEN.**

***POSTLUDE** *The Master Hath Come* Arr. M. McDonald

(* 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: Kylene Joplin, in loving memory of Jimmie Joplin.

LARRY SHARP COLUMBARIUM INTERMENT – Today at 11:00 a.m. the family invites you to attend the interment of Larry Sharp.

SEEKERS CLASS WITH CHUCK RAMSAY—Please join Chuck on Sundays, at 10:45a.m. in Classroom 5.

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

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.

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 August 31, 2026		Through Week 37 (09-13-2026)	
Monthly Giving Support	$ 38,732	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	167
Monthly Giving Budget	62,500	YTD 2026 Attendance Sanctuary	9,121
YTD Giving Support	503,812	Weekly Viewing On-Line	77
YTD Giving Budget	500,000	YTD 2026 Viewing On-Line	3,581
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.

MISSION QUILTERS – Monday, September 21, 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

BIBLE STUDY-Mondays, 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5.

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.

JOYFUL SPIRT ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL – No rehearsal on Tuesday, September 22. See you on the Tuesday, September 29.

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

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY IS BACK – Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in Classroom 1.

CHOIR REHEARSAL IS BACK ON WEDNESDAYS- in the Sanctuary at 3:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining, contact Jamie Reed, Music Director at Jamie@Valleypres.net.

***THE CHOSEN,* THURSDAYS, 2:00 P.M. IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER**— All are invited to view this remarkable streaming series on the life of Jesus. This Thursday, a Roman soldier asks Jesus to heal his servant, and two of Jesus' disciples try to grab power in Jesus' kingdom.

Write Where You Are: Writing as a Spiritual Practice – September 18 -October 16. 1-2:30 p.m. in Classroom 5. Together we will explore our sense of self, our world, and God in this fall season of gathering and letting go. Facilitated by Linda Piotrowski.

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.

Why Do Presbyterians Do That? - A fun six-week conversation with Rev. Blair about what Presbyterians believe, why we worship and govern the church as we do, and what it means for following Jesus. Thursdays, October 8-November 12, 1:00 p.m. Classroom 5. Please call the office (520) 336-8962 to register.

Blessing of the Animals – Saturday, October 10, at 10:00 a.m. under the Solar Pannels.

Breath as a Prayer – Be Still. Breathe. Listen. Join Linda Piotrowski and others for a peaceful time of reflection as we quite our minds, open our hearts, and listen for the gentle voice of God. Fridays, October 23 – November 20, 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5.

Get Connected with VPC Breeze! - Stay connected, keep your information up to date, and access VPC church information—need help getting started? Contact the church office at **vpc-office@valleypres.net or (520) 625-5023.**

The Nominating Committee is looking for Valley Presbyterian Church Members to Join the search for an Associate Pastor. If interested, please pick up a form at the office.

Please recycle your bulletin in the blue bins.

Valley Presbyterian Church (USA)
Oasis of Grace

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Telephone: (520) 625-5023
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Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net

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*
MAUREEN RAMSAY; *Clerk of Session*