

SCRIPTURE

2nd Corinthians 5: 11, 20 - 6:2

We know what it is to fear the Lord, therefore we are called to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As God’s co-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

SERMON

“WHY CARE?”

***HYMN** *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* 700

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *St. Columbia (The King of Love, My Shepherd Is)*
Traditional Irish Hymn/Arr. H. Willan



ASH WEDNESDAY
February 22, 2023

PRELUDE *Were you There?* Traditional/Arr. C. Callahan



CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship GOD! God sent Christ into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

***HYMN** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* 418

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our LORD Jesus Christ. Lent is a season of forty nights and days to prepare to renew life in this paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, while marking the penitence of this community. I invite you therefore, in the name of Christ to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of compassionate love, by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

 <p>Valley Presbyterian Church <i>Oasis of Grace</i></p> <p>2800 S. Camino del Sol Green Valley, AZ 85622 Telephone: (520) 625-5023</p> <p>Web: www.valleypresbyterian.net Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net</p> <p>We are a Stephen Ministry Church</p>		<p>REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, Head of Staff REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, Associate <i>Pastor of Discipleship</i></p>
		<p>CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, Parish Nurse JAMIE REED, Director of Music WES MOULTON, Organist/Accompanist REV. JOE HAWKINS, Pastor Emeritus</p>

UNISON RESPONSE

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. Therefore, we will have no fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble in tumult.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

L: Let us pray in our own voices and for the sins of our world.

P: Holy and merciful God, we confess to you, to one another, to the whole communion of saints, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have chosen to leave undone.

L: We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as our own life. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

P: Have mercy on us, O GOD.

L: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

P: Have mercy on us, O GOD.

L: We confess to you O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites, our exploitation of other people.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Our love of worldly goods, comforts and pleasures, and our dishonesty in daily life.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Our negligence to commend the faith that is in us.

P: We confess to You, O GOD.

L: Accept our repentance, O GOD, for the wrongs we have done. For the neglect of human need and suffering, for our indifference to injustice and cruelty. For all false judgements, uncharitable thought toward neighbors, prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us.

P: Accept our repentance, O GOD.

L: Restore us to a right Creation, O GOD, and let your anger depart from the world.

P: Favorably hear us, O GOD, for great is Your mercy.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we granted everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON & THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Through Jesus Christ, God reconciled all Creation to the Creator. Following Jesus example of prayer and fasting, may we live with hearts willing to serve one another in holy love. This we pray sharing together in the prayer he taught...

ANTHEM

Create in me a clean heart, O God

C.F. Mueller