



**February 21, 2021**

**PRELUDE**

*Meditation on the Cross*

Joyce Jones

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Pastor Craig

**PASSING OF PEACE, LENTEN RINGING OF THE BOWL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor Diane

Then God said to Noah, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all generations: I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant. When the bow is in the clouds, I will look upon it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.”

## OPENING HYMN

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

(verses 1, 2, 4) 213

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

## CALL TO PRAYER

God of the covenant, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption, watering new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving flood of baptism, we are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, unseal within us the wellspring of Your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, You sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from You and turned aside from Your ways. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored Your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return to us paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners! He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ: You are forgiven!

## \*GLORIA PATRI

Greatorex

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.

## ANTHEM

*Shine On Us with Liebestraum*

Smith, Liszt/Arr. L. McKechnie

Katie Sayre - soloist

## **PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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 sin 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.**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 2:1-12

**2** A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. **2** They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. **3** Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. **4** Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." **6** Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, **7** "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8** Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? **9** Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' **10** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, **11** "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." **12** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

### **SERMON**

Look Up Higher

Pastor Craig

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Apostles' Creed*

p. 35

**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.**





## Flowers

The available dates below are open at this time:  
October 3 and 10.

Please sign up at the office or email Laurie at [laurie@valleypres.net](mailto:laurie@valleypres.net) with your request.  
Thank you.

Classes for Lent

### Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name

Book by Max Lucado (\$16)

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. starting Feb 24

### The Color of Compromise

Book by Jemar Tisby (\$14)

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m starting Feb 25

Please contact Pastor Diane to register ([pastordiane@valleypres.net](mailto:pastordiane@valleypres.net); 625-5023)  
Books can be purchased in the church office.



## **Grief Recovery Workshop Five Consecutive Mondays**

Beginning March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this course is to help participants understand the grief process involved after a significant loss, recognize the unique pain and feelings triggered by their loss, and to begin to renew their lives as they heal and learn to cope. Anyone who has suffered a loss or a death of a loved one and wishes to participate should call the church office at 625-5023 to register.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
January-2021		Through Week #7 (2/14/21)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 69,944	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	101
Monthly Giving Budget	\$ 85,791	* YTD 2021 Attendance Sanctuary	618
*YTD Giving Support	\$ 69,944	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	182
*YTD Giving Budget	\$ 85,791	** YTD 2021 Viewing On-Line	1171
		* YTD 2021 Attendance / On-Line	1789
		* YTD 2020 Attendance	3464
<p style="text-align: center;">* YTD = Year to Date      ** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - <a href="mailto:dxb38@cox.net">dxb38@cox.net</a> - 520-399-3959      2021 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member</p>			