



The Sacrament of Baptism June 27, 2021 The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**PRELUDE**                    *Still, Still With Thee*    F.Mendelssohn/Arr. D. Forrest

## **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

### **PASSING OF PEACE, RINGING OF THE BOWL, OUTPOURING OF THE WATER**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rubin Alves

What is hope? Hope is the pre-sentiment that imagination is more real and reality less real than they look. Hope is the hunch that the overwhelming brutality of facts that oppress us are not the last word. Hope is the suspicion that reality is more complex than realists want us to believe. Hope is that the frontiers of the possible are not determined by the actual; and in a miraculous unexplained way, life is opening up creative events which will open the way to freedom and resurrection – but the two -- suffering and hope must live from each other. Suffering without hope produces resentment and despair. Hope without suffering creates illusions, naiveté and drunkenness. SO, let us plant dates, even

though we who plant them will never taste. We must live by the love of what we will never see. That is the secret discipline. It is the refusal to let our creative act be dissolved away by our need for immediate and sensory experience and it is a struggled commitment to the future of our grandchildren. Such disciplined hope is what has given prophets, revolutionaries and saints, the courage to die for the future they envisage. They make their own lives the seed of their highest hopes.

✦ **OPENING HYMN**

*How Firm a Foundation*

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**CALL TO PRAYER**

Light of minds that know You, life of souls that love You, strength of the thoughts that seek You: Help us so to know You that we may truly love You; so to love You that we may fully serve You, whose service is perfect freedom.

**SILENT PRAYER**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Eternal GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts; cleanse us from all our offenses, deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to You, confessing our faults, confiding in Your grace, finding in You our refuge and strength, through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Savior.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the sheep of GOD's own flock, GOD's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into GOD's marvelous light. Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

## **✠GLORIA PATRI**

581

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**

*How Great Is Our God* Tomlin/Reeves/Cash  
Brandon Jones, Soloist

The splendor of the King, and clothed in Majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

From age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

## ✦ PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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

**Mark 5: 1-13**

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He

gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

**Acts 8: 26-38**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

**SERMON**                      “The Tastebuds of the Heart”

**THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**    The Sacrament of Baptism      Lon Main

**BAPTISMAL VOWS**

- Who is your Lord and Savior?
- Do you trust in Him?
- Do you intend to be his disciple, to obey God’s Word, to show His Love?

**Question of the Congregation:** *Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered us to teach those who are baptized. Do you, the church vow to tell this new disciple the good news of the gospel as you know it, to help him to know all that Christ commands, and by your fellowship to strengthen his family ties with the household of God?*

✠ **HYMN**                      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*                      475

**CALL FOR OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**                      *Shall We Gather at the River?*      R. Lowry/J. Raney

✦ **DOXOLOGY**

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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**

**HYMN**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

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**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**     *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our Creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

**POSTLUDE**

*Down to the River to Pray*

Traditional/Doug Wagner

✦ Please stand if able

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**All Worship Services are available for replay on our website:  
[www.valleypres.net](http://www.valleypres.net)**

**Liturgist – Gee-Gee Smith**

**Flowers for the Sanctuary provided by:**

Dick and Kay Davison in honor of their 67<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

**Welcome to all who view our worship services at home and to those who enter our sanctuary.** Drink deeply of the living waters of God’s grace as we worship together in spirit. If you are a visitor and would like more information about our church, visit us at [valleypres.net](http://valleypres.net) where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter. You can also pick up a Welcome Packet at the Welcome Centers when you visit us in person. We are glad you have joined us today.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
May-2021		Through Week #25 (6/20/21)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 62,050	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	135
Monthly Giving Budget	\$ 43,963	* YTD 2021 Attendance Sanctuary	3400
*YTD Giving Support	\$ 301,488	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	110
*YTD Giving Budget	\$ 341,476	** YTD 2021 Viewing On-Line	3653
		* YTD 2021 Attendance / On-Line	7053
		* YTD 2020 Attendance Sanctuary	5272
<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:dx38@cox.net">dx38@cox.net</a> - 520-399-3959      2021 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member</p>			

*Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Head of Staff*  
*Rev. Diane Christopher, Associate Pastor of Discipleship*  
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