

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Diane

L: Great God, You have been generous and marvelously kind. Grant us such wonder, love and gratitude that we may sing praises to you, and joyfully honor your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to the Lord glory and praise!

P: His loving kindness is forever.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up.

L: Praise the Lord

P: The Lord's name be praised.

ALL: Amen and Amen

✠ **OPENING HYMN** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* 394

CALL TO PRAYER

Without God's word we have nothing to say. Without God's spirit, we are helpless. Grant us Holy Spirit, that we may lead this people in prayer, proclaim the good news and gratefully praise your name.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LORD of all the worlds that are, Savior of humanity, Spirit of life: We pray for your whole creation. Order unruly powers, deal with injustice, feed and satisfy longing peoples, so that in freedom your children may enjoy the world you made. Send peace on earth, putting down greed, pride and anger, which turn brother against sister, and nation against nation. O God, whom we cannot love, unless we love one another, remove hate and prejudice from all humanity, especially us, that your children may be reconciled with those they fear, threaten or resent, and live together in peace, through Jesus Christ. (*Silent prayer*) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God sent the world God's only Son. Since God loves us so much, we too should love one another. Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

✦ 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.

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love

Arr. J. Raney

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

Mordecai: Cheer! Haman: Boo!

King Ahasuerus: Duh! Esther: Whistle!

SCRIPTURE READING

The Book of Esther 4:1-14

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. But he went only as far as King Ahasuerus' gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the

Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther summoned Hathach, one of King Ahasuerus' eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of King Ahasuerus' gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into King Ahasuerus' presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

Hathach went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, "All King Ahasuerus' officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches King Ahasuerus in the inner court without being summoned, King Ahasuerus has but one law: that they be put to death. The only exception to this is for King Ahasuerus to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to King Ahasuerus."

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in King Ahasuerus' house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will

perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

SERMON

“SUCH A TIME AS THIS”

✦ **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Apostles’ Creed 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, died, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at 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.

✦ **HYMN** *In the Midst of New Dimensions* 315

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* Arr. D. L. McKechnie
(with *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik – Allegro* by Mozart)

✦ **DOXOLOGY** 606

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**

✦ **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 as 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

Recessional March

J. Rogers

✦ All those who are able, please stand

All Worship Services are available for replay on our website:

www.valleypres.net

Sanctuary Flowers provided by: Bob and Mary Lillie, to celebrate the birth of their first Great Grandson, Dallas Richard, born June 2, 2021.

WELCOME to all who enter this place. Drink deeply of the living waters of God’s grace as we worship together in spirit.

VISITORS: Consider yourself at home while you are here! Please pick up a Visitor’s Information Packet while enjoying refreshments at our Visitor’s Table in Fellowship Hall. If you would like more information about our church, visit us at valleypres.net where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter.

We are glad you have joined us today.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
August-2021		Through Week #38 (09/19/21)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 53,520	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	152
Monthly Giving Budget	\$ 39,626	* YTD 2021 Attendance Sanctuary	5,170
*YTD Giving Support	\$ 450,053	** Weekly Viewing On-Line (Live Streaming)	<i>Technical Difficulties</i>
*YTD Giving Budget	\$ 442,444	** YTD 2021 Viewing On-Line	5,328
		* YTD 2021 Attendance / On-Line	10,498
		* YTD 2020 Attendance Sanctuary	5,272
<p>* YTD = Year to Date ** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service</p> <p>D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - dx38@cox.net - 520-399-3959 2021 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member</p>			

VALLEY READERS

The Valley Readers will meet on Monday, September 27th at 2:00 p.m. in Classroom 1.

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry Group will meet on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Sweet Family Room

JOYFUL SPIRIT ENSEMBLE

Joyful Spirit will rehearse on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Sweet Family Room.

MEN'S WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

This church-sponsored men's group meets on Wednesdays at 9:00am in classroom 1. Please come and join the discussion.

BELLS PRACTICE

Bells practice is on Wednesdays, at 2:00pm—3:00pm in the Sweet Family Room.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice starts at 3:15pm in the Spiritual Life Center. Any questions please contact Jamie Reed at Jamie@valleypres.net.

ORDAINED ELDERS AND DEACONS

We are in need of ordained Elders and Deacons who are willing to serve communion the first Sunday of each month. This will start in October. Please contact Lee Ann Calhoun at leampsky06@gmail.com. or (520) 203-8497.

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Saturdays, October 9th, 16th, & 23rd, 10:00am– 11:30am. For more information and to register, contact Pastor Diane Christopher (520-625-5023; pastordiane@valleypres.net)

PATIO SALE FASHION SHOW IN NEED OF GENTLY USED CLOTHING

Preferred sizes, medium and large. Please bring to the Women's Ministry table in the Fellowship Hall after worship service.

Happening Next Sunday:

Welcome Back Celebration!!! The Choir will be singing, we will serve communion, and we will be welcoming our members, neighbors and snow birds back to the sanctuary. Bring your friends and neighbors!

Food Bank Collection: Please bring your canned/boxed food donations for the Food Bank.



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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

REV. DR. CRAIG LINDSEY, *Head of Staff*
REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Associate Pastor of Discipleship*

CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*
JAMIE REED, *Director of Music*
WES MOULTON, *Organist/Accompanist*
REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*