

THE DISHONEST STEWARD



LUKE 16: 1-13

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 18, 2022

PRELUDE

Nimrod

Elgar

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Pastor Craig

POURING OUT OF WATERS, PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

RINGING THE BOWL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Diane

L: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth!

P: Worship the Lord with gladness!

L: Come into God's presence with singing!

P: Enter the courts of the Lord with praise!

✠ **OPENING HYMN**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

35

CALL TO PRAYER

God and Father of all, You have willed that the last shall be first, and made a little child the measure of your kingdom. Grant us that wisdom that is from above, that we might understand that in your sight the one who serves in the greatest of all.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, You created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your divine image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works, to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving. Lord, you are rich in love for all your people. Show us the treasures that endure, and when we are tempted by greed, remind us of your lavish mercy. Call us back into your service, making us worthy to be entrusted with what never fails. We ask this through your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

(Silent prayer) Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was divine, yet for our sake became poor, that by his humble poverty we might be blessed. Brothers and Sisters believe the good news, 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

Jesus, What a Beautiful Name T. Riches/Arr. J. Raney

Jesus! What a beautiful name.
Son of God, Son of man, Lamb that was slain.
Joy and peace, strength and hope,
Grace that blows all fear away.
Jesus! What a beautiful name.

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth.
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

Jesus! What a beautiful name, O, what a name!
Truth revealed, my future sealed, healed my pain.
Love and freedom, life and warmth,
Grace that blows all guilt away.
Jesus! What a beautiful name!

Jesus! What a beautiful name, praise his name!
He rescued my soul, my strong hold, lifts me from shame.
Forgiveness, security, power and love,
Grace that blows all fear away.
Jesus! What a beautiful name!

O, how I love Jesus, because he first loved me.

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.

CHORAL AMEN

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE

Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

"The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

"'Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.'

"Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

"'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

SERMON

“SHREWD BELIEVERS ”

✠ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The 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** *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* 23

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *It Is Well With My Soul* P.P. Bliss/Arr. M. Hayes,
M. Gaspard

**If you haven't already done so, please print your name in the Fellowship Register.*

*** If you have a special prayer request, please fill out the blue card in front of you and place it in the offertory. Our Pastors and the Prayer Ministry Team will pray for your request. There is also a box in the Narthex you may place it in as well.*

✠ **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 THANKSGIVING

✠ **HYMN** *Let All Things Now Living* 37

✠ **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** *Praise, My Soul, the King Heaven* Henry Francis Lyte/
Goss

✦ **All those who are able, please stand**

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All Worship Services are available for replay on our website.

www.valleypres.net

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY PROVIDED BY: Kylene Joplin, in honor and loving memory of Jimmie Joplin.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE HOSPITALIZED OR IN REHABILITATION:

Dave Appleton & Gerry Pearson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLE REFLECTIONS—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, AT 1:00 P.M.

We invite you to join Pastor Craig in a discussion of what the Bible means. Chapter by chapter each week; in-person in Classroom 5 and on Zoom.

FALL WRITING SERIES- Starting Monday, September 19 at 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. in classroom 5. This is a 6-week course. Class is limited to 10 people. Linda Piotrowski will facilitate. To register for the class email Linda at giraffe109@gmail.com.

WOMEN’S GATHERING LUNCHEON- September 20, at 11:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Introduction to this year’s lesson *Celebrating Sabbath*. Pastor Diane Christopher will be our guest speaker leading us in our first Bible study lesson. Tickets are \$11 and available in the Fellowship Hall at the Women’s Ministries table September 11 and 18.

MOVIE MINISTRY— A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT.

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the Spiritual Life Center. Your host will be Pastor Craig Lindsey.

THE BOOK: The Grand Story of God, at 1:00 P.M. Thursday, September 22 in classroom 5. We cover the book of Leviticus. This class is recorded and available on the VPC website.

VPC CHILI COOK-OFF, OCTOBER 9 - Starting this Sunday, tickets are available for our chili cook-off. Five chefs from our congregation will make their specialty chili as well the local fire fighters, who will also bring one of their vehicles and offer demonstrations. So we have an idea how much food to make, please pick up your free tickets over the next three Sundays.

VPC Financial - Attendance / On-Line Viewing Metrics			
Monthly Giving Support Contributions		Weekly Attendance / Viewing	
August-2022		Through Week 37 (09/11/2022)	
Monthly Giving Support	\$ 43,534	Weekly Attendance Sanctuary	173
Monthly Giving Budget	37,602	* YTD 2022 Attendance Sanctuary	7,978
*YTD Giving Support	486,124	** Weekly Viewing On-Line	129
*YTD Giving Budget	521,774	** YTD 2022 Viewing On-Line	6,210
		* YTD 2022 Attendance / On-Line	14,188
		* YTD 2021 Attendance Sanctuary	5,018
* YTD = Year to Date		** Number of on-line devices tuned into Sunday service	
D. Brooks - VPC treasurer - dxb38@cox.net - 520-399-3959 2022 Per Capita is \$41.50 per member			

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 enjoy a cup of coffee, lemonade and a cookie while visiting the Visitor's Table in Fellowship Hall after the church worship service. You can pick up a Visitor's Information Packet at the Visitor's Table or the Welcome Centers. If you would like to receive more information about us, visit us at [www. valleypres.net](http://www.valleypres.net) where you can sign up for our daily email blasts and monthly newsletter.

Children are invited to worship in the sanctuary then attend Sunday School after Children's Time.

We are glad you have joined us today.



2800 S. Camino del Sol
Green Valley, AZ 85622
Telephone: (520) 625-5023

Web: www.valleypresbyterian.net
Email: vpc-office@valleypres.net

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*