

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

Visitors: Consider yourself at home while you are here! Please pick up a Visitor's Information Packet while enjoying refreshments just for you at our Visitor's Table in Fellowship Hall after our worship.

A Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, September 23 after Worship for the purpose of nominating and electing Ruling Elders and Deacons to the Classes of 2020 and 2021.

Rev. Mark Medina will be holding office hours on Wednesday, September 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., at Posada Java, 665 S. Park Centre Ave., at La Posada.

The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon! The Inquisitors will begin a six week study of *The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon*. The class starts on Friday, September 21 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Classroom 1. The professor is Dr. Bart Ehrman, Professor and Chair of The Department of Religious Studies at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For more information, contact Grant Stitt at 520-396-3549.

A Grief Recovery Workshop will start on Monday, October 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for five weeks. The purpose of the workshop is to discover the stages of the grief process, find healthy ways to deal with the pain and loss and to begin the healing process. Facilitators for the workshop are Lynne Szabo, M.A., M.F.C.C. and Jan Woerner. Call the church office 520.625.5023 to reserve your spot.

Stephen Ministry: Is God calling you to be a Stephen Minister? We particularly need people who are full time residents, but anyone who is here for 6 months or more can take the Stephen Ministry training classes starting in January, 2019. For more information, contact Patti Bright at 305-3275.

Music in the Valley: Tickets for the *Music in the Valley* concert series are available in Fellowship Hall after worship. Season tickets (all 7 performances) are \$55.00 and individual tickets are \$10.00. Tickets can also be purchased during the week from the front office during regular business hours. They will also be available at the Chamber of Commerce. The first concert is on October 26th at 6:00 p.m. and will feature Joel Pierce and Russell Ronnebaum playing a program of 4-hand piano music. Thank you for supporting the music ministry here at VPC!

Women's Ministries: The Veterans Administration has notified us that they can no longer use the type of stamps we have been donating. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may be for you. Thank you for your stamp donations in past years.

VPC Mission Quilters: The Quilters will meet in Fellowship Hall on Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested or has questions, please call Patti Bright at 305-3275.

Thank you to our volunteers!

Coffee Fellowship

Marian Coberly, Barbara Dittmer
Bob & Fran Williams

Information Center

Carol Wilhems

Medical Team

Doug Clark

Visitors Center

Mike & Sue Brouwer

Welcome Centers

Carol Peeler, Roy Romstad

La Posada Service of Worship

Rudy Sweisfurth

Please remember those currently or recently hospitalized:

Don Moses, Rick Olsen, Pam Peake

The Grapevine on September 24 at 9:30 a.m. will emphasize the "Seeking to be Faithful" material and will be led by the Peace & Justice Committee.

Stay Vertical Fall Prevention: Please join us for the Second Annual Stay Vertical Fall Prevention Day here at VPC on September 24 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The speakers will be Ms. Obrien, Nurse Practitioner for the Green Valley Fire District and Dr. Nayeri, Director of Healthy Aging from Human Services in Phoenix. Listen to local healthcare providers and participate in different exercise demonstrations of Chair Exercise and Tai Chi. Take part in other health care screenings and visit many tables on local community resources and health care information. A free lunch will be provided by Valley Assistance and will be prepared by VPC's Valley Galley. Please register with Valley Assistance Services (625-5966) if you would like to attend.

Flowers: If you would like to reserve flowers (one or both arrangements) in your name for any future Service of Worship, please call the church office (625-5023) or sign up at our Information Center on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$34 for each arrangement.

Faith Formation Adult Studies:

⇒ **Adult Sunday School Class:** Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in Classroom 5. Discusses the Sunday morning scripture passage.

⇒ **Adult Confirmation Class:** Mondays at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5. Tomorrow's topic: Is the Bible True?

⇒ **Moses:** Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in Classroom 5.



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We are a Stephen Ministry Church

REV. MARK A. MEDINA, *Transitional Pastor*

REV. DIANE CHRISTOPHER, *Pastor of Discipleship*

REV. DR. LINDA LLOYD, *Interim Pastor of Care*

REV. JOE HAWKINS, *Pastor Emeritus*

JOEL PIERCE, *Director of Music*

CHRISTINE ERICKSON, RN, *Parish Nurse*



To make Christ known through reconciliation while communicating respect and love to all people.

✠ All those who are able, please stand

September 16, 2018

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

lords prayer words

There is a light that guides us, small and true and bright.

Jesus right besides us in the morning, noon and night.

He walks upon each place we tread in sorrow or in joy.

And goes before and walks behind, to catch us if we fall. Amen.

9:20 A.M. WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH Rev. Dr. Lloyd

Please print your name in the Friendship Register provided in your pew.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

POURING OF THE WATER

L: Jesus is the Living Water. P: Praise be to God.

PRELUDE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus arr. Heather Sorenson

INTROIT

Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel his mighty power and his grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings,

I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 19)

Rev. Medina

Come into this sacred space to worship God

whose teaching is perfect;

whose directions are sure.

Come into this holy place to worship God

whose standards are right;

whose commandment is clear;

whose judgements are true.

Come with holy fear – to be given life, and made wise,

to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide.

Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of

our hearts be according to your will, O God. We

come into your presence to Worship you.

✠HYMN *Open My Eyes That I May See* Open My Eyes 324

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Christian Aid

Lord, you placed us in the world to be its salt.

We were afraid of committing ourselves,
afraid of being stained by the world.

We did not want to hear what ‘they’ might say
and our salt dissolved as if in water.

Forgive us, Jesus.

Lord, you placed us in the world to live in community.

Thus you taught us to love,
to share in life,
to struggle for bread and for justice,

Your truth incarnate in our lives.

So be it, Lord Jesus.

Hear us now, O God, as we bring our silent prayers
of confession to you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Have you heard the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Grace has set us free! We are forgiven and made new.

RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE *This Is My Father’s World*

**This is my Father’s world: Oh, let me ne’er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world, the battle is not done:
Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and Heav’n be one.**

ANTHEM *Precious Savior* Price/Besig
Sanctuary Choir

O my Savior, precious Savior, ease my burdens; calm my fears.
O my Savior, precious Savior, share my sorrows; dry my tears.
When I’m broken and downhearted, heal my spirit and touch my soul.
O my Savior, my precious Savior, through Your love and grace,
You make me whole.

O my Savior, precious Savior, be my shepherd; be my guide.
O my Savior, precious Savior, help me keep You by my side.
When the storm clouds gather ‘round me, Lord protect me and lead
me home. O my Savior, my precious Savior, I will find my strength
in You alone.

O my Savior, precious Savior, be my anchor; be my light.
O my Savior, precious Savior, keep me always in Your sight.
When You call me, I will follow, ever grateful, my faith restored.
O my Savior, my precious Savior, I will praise Your name forever
more! I will praise You, my Savior and Lord!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

Please join the Choir in singing the Great Amen.



TIME WITH CHILDREN (June-September)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Deacon Linda Jorn

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 19:1-14

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:38-50

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *“The Paths We Take”* Rev. Medina

MOMENTS OF SILENT REFLECTION

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Confession of Belhar

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the
message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that
the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of
the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a
peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by
deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which
righteousness dwells. As Christians, this is what we believe.**

✠HYMN *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* Bourbon 393

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

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

OFFERTORY *Nearer, My God, to Thee* arr. Heather Sorenson

✠DOXOLOGY Old One Hundredth 592

**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 *Lift High the Cross* Crucifer 371

✠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 breath 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 Rondeau* David Lasky

OUR WORSHIP NOW ENTERS THE WORLD!

Worship Aids/Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: *“The Paths We Take”*

Scriptures: Psalm 19:1-14 and Mark 9:38-50

Psalm 19:1-14

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
³They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴Yet their
voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the
heavens God has pitched tent for the sun. ⁵It is like a bridegroom coming out of
his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶It rises at one end of the
heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. ⁷The
law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are
trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The precepts of the LORD are right, giving
joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
⁹The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous. ¹⁰They are more precious than gold, than much pure
gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹By them
your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can
discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³Keep your servant also from
willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great
transgression. ¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be
pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we
told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” ³⁹“Do not stop him,” Jesus
said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say
anything bad about me, ⁴⁰for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹Truly I tell you,
anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the
Messiah will certainly not lose their reward. ⁴²“If anyone causes one of these little
ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large
millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your
hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than
with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵And if your foot
causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to
have two feet and be thrown into hell. ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to
stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye
than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where “the worms that eat them
do not die, and the fire is not quenched.” ⁴⁹Everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰“Salt
is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt
among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.