



VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Liturgy for
January 28, 2024

the Gospel of
Matthew

Valley Presbyterian Church exists to make disciples of Jesus by gathering for the public worship of God; by growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ through Christian education; and by sending God's people to go out into the world and love their neighbors and cities for the glory of God.

Service Time:
11:00 am

Location:
9200 Haskell Ave. North Hills CA 91343



Welcome to Valley Presbyterian Church!

We trust that you will experience the presence of Christ and the welcome of his people as you gather with us this morning. Below are a series of answers to questions that are often asked about our worship service. We hope that you will find them informative. If you have any other questions please feel free to contact our pastors directly at valleypresbyterian@gmail.com

Does your church have a statement of faith?

Yes! Valley Presbyterian Church is part of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), and as a part of the PCA we subscribe to a document called the Westminster Standards. This document consists of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and two Catechisms (the Larger and Shorter Catechisms) which are meant to be helpful teaching tools for the people of God. The Westminster Standards can be found online, but the basics of what we believe can be found in your bulletin. We confess these basics every week when we recite the Nicene Creed, which has been a summary of the Christian faith for over 1,500 years!

Why is your worship so... liturgical?

Believe it or not, every church is liturgical. Some liturgies consist of three songs, announcements, a 50 minute sermon, etc. Those liturgies tend to reflect many Christian churches in North America. Our worship service is ordered the way that it is because it is a reflection of how God has met with his people throughout the history of the world. Here's a breakdown of why we do what we do:

•**God Gathers His People** → At the appointed time, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ gathers for worship, recognizing that God Himself has brought together His people.

•**We Come To God By Faith** → In continued response to God's call to worship, we offer our first

prayer to God. This prayer also reflects our adoration and affection for God, acknowledging Him as our Creator and Redeemer.

•**God Reshapes The Hearts And Lives Of His People** → God once again addresses us directly through His holy Word. As we are faced with God's perfect holiness, there is only one appropriate response—the confession of our sin. Having heard God's Law and having confessed our sins, what we need most is to have the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed to us! It is here that God assures us of His forgiveness and Fatherly love toward us!

•**God Uses His People In His Service** → We now enter into a time of intercessory prayer, both for Christ's church and the world. The Kingdom of God is built through the prayers of the church, so we pray because we are given this privilege as His servant-people. In grateful response to all of God's gifts to us, we offer a token of appreciation to Him. Our financial gifts to God are the confession of our stewardship.

•**God Speaks To Us Through His Word** → The preaching of the Word is the primary way God addresses sinners to receive salvation and to grow in it. Thus in preaching, God continues to speak to us with the love of Jesus.

•**God Renews His Covenant With Us** → The reading and the preaching of the Word is when God audibly speaks His gospel to us, then the administration of the sacraments is when God visibly shows His gospel to us. The Lord's Supper is God visibly communing with us at His table.

•God Sends His People Out With His

Blessing → Just as God initiated worship, so now God concludes worship with His benediction, His “good word.” In the benediction, God, through the Pastor, blesses His beloved people. We can all objectively say after worship that we were blessed. As it is not a prayer, but a pronouncement, we lift up our faces to the Lord as He blesses us, for His face shines upon us and His grace and peace are ours forevermore.

Why is there so much Scripture reading in your worship service?

The Bible is central in our worship service because we believe the Bible is God’s word, and we need to hear from God when we gather together. One of Jesus’ apostles, Paul, wrote, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, and to teaching.” (1 Tim. 4:13) It is through God’s word that faith is created in our hearts (Rom. 10:17), and we are made holy (John 17:17).

Why do you take communion most Sundays?

Communion is a Holy Sacrament of the Church (along with Baptism). The word Sacrament is a translation of a Greek word which means “mystery.” Baptism and Communion are the “mysteries” of the church, because through them God works powerfully through his Word and Spirit nourishing our faith with Christ and all his benefits. Holy Communion is not an empty ritual, or a mere “remembrance” of Jesus’ death, it is fellowship with the risen Christ. In Holy Communion, Jesus and all of his gifts are offered to the faithful.

Communion Information: We are serving both juice and wine as we partake of the Lord’s Supper together. Both juice and wine serve as appropriate elements of communion as both fit the biblical requirement of being fruit of the vine. If you have never been baptized, or if you are not a Christian, please abstain from taking Communion. If you’d like to take Communion, or to be baptized, speak to either of the Pastors, or to one of the Elders. We would be happy to assist you in taking steps toward Baptism, or

your first Communion.

Communion is for baptized, repentant, and believing Christians and they should pick up the cups of bread and the vine as they enter for worship. Let us come to Christ’s table together rejoicing in our salvation!

Why do you baptize babies?

We baptize the children of believing parents because it is in line with the teaching of Scripture. We don’t baptize babies because it’s a nice tradition, or because it’s what the universal church practiced up until the time of the Reformation. In the Bible, the children of believers are always treated as holy members of God’s church by virtue of God’s promises (1 Cor. 7:14). In the Old Testament, God commanded that the sign of membership in God’s visible church be given to infants who didn’t yet have faith (Gen. 17:12). This principle still stands with the New Testament sign of Baptism (Acts 2:39; 16:15.)

Why is worship led by Pastors and Elders?

Pastors and Elders are those whom Christ has gifted and have been set apart by ordination by the Presbytery or congregation to be God’s representatives and undershepherds of the Lord Jesus Christ. We don’t submit to God’s Word because it comes from charismatic teachers, or funny communicators; we submit to it because it comes from those who have been set apart for the office of elder to speak the truth in love that we may grow more and more into the image of Christ.



Prelude
Welcome

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

Ben Mason
Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Call to
Worship†

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn of
Praise† #310

Rejoice The Lord Is King

Rejoice the Lord is King; Your Lord and King adore
Rejoice give thanks and sing and triumph evermore
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice again I say rejoice.

Jesus the Savior reigns; The God of truth and love
When he had purged our stains he took his seat above
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice again I say rejoice.

His Kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heav'n
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice again I say rejoice.

He sits at God's right hand; Till all his foes submit
And bow to his command and fall beneath his feet
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope; Our Lord the Judge shall come
And take his servants up to their eternal home
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice again I say rejoice.

WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation

Psalm 121:1-2

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Pastor: We lift our eyes to the hills. Where does our help come from?

People: Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer of
Adoration†

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Salutation†

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Doxology †
#733

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

GOD RESHAPES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

Call to
Confession

Through
Confessing
Our Sins
Publically and
Privately

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature which is prone to evil, and from which flow all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in forgetting your love. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. We are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Teach us to hate our sins and cleanse us from our secret faults. Forgive us for the sake of your dear Son and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commands of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Assurance of
Pardon

Confession of
Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Question 1

Pastor: What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

People: That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful savior, Jesus Christ, who, at the cost of his own blood, has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well, that without the will of my Father in heaven, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and

makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready, from now on, to live for him.

Declare His
Praise †

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice.
All creation rises to rejoice.

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come let us adore Him!
Behold our King, nothing can compare.
Come let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come let us adore Him!
Behold our King, nothing can compare.
Come let us adore Him!

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave.
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign!

Behold our God, seated on His throne.
Come let us adore Him!
Behold our King, nothing can compare.
Come let us adore Him!

GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As We Pray For
Our World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

The Lord's
Prayer

Our Father, which are in heaven, Hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

As We Give To
God's Work
Throughout
the World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture
Reading

Matthew 15: 21-39

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

Mercy For The Outsider

GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Hymn of
Preparation †

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred Head now wounded with grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns thine only crown
O sacred Head what glory what bliss till now was thine
Yet though despised and gory I joy to call thee mine.

What thou my Lord hast suffered was all for sinners' gain
Mine, mine was the transgression but thine the deadly pain
Lo here I fall my savior 'tis I deserve thy place
Look on me with thy favor vouch-safe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee dearest Friend
For this thy dying sorrow thy pity without end
O make me thine forever and should I fainting be
Lord let me never, never, outlive my love to thee.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of
Response †
#455

And Can It Be That I should Gain

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me who caused his pain!
For me who him to death pursued
Amazing love how can it be
That thou my God shouldst die for me?

Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above.
So free, so infinite his grace!
Humbled himself so great his love,
And bled for all his chosen race.
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me.

Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray:
I woke the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off my heart was free:
I rose went forth and followed Thee.

Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread:
Jesus and all in him is mine.
Alive in him my living head,
And clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach th'eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own.

Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

God's
Benediction †

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Postlude

Ben Mason

Community Groups

We grow together in our faith, not just on Sunday mornings but by gathering to share meals, talk about the Bible, and pray with each other. Check out one of our community groups nearest to you! (VPC Community Groups meet 1st & 3rd Sundays Sept—May)

Burbank-Pasadena-Glendale

6:00pm

Leader: Pastor Ron

Contact: 818-894-9200

Topic: 1 Thessalonians

Northridge

Sunday at 7pm/monthly

Host/Leader: Elders Bruce Mateko & Larry Shaw

Contact: 818-886-1233

Topic: Review/Discussion on the Sunday Sermon

North Hills

2nd & 4th Sundays at 3:30pm

Host/Leader: Elder Jaime Garcia

Contact: 818-631-0408

Topic: Westminster Confession of Faith

Santa Clarita

2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00pm

Leader: Pastor Ron

Contact: 818-894-9200

Topic: 1 Thessalonians

Valencia/Santa Clarita

Sunday at 2pm

Leader: Elders Jesse Cook & Edgar Figueroa

Contact: 818-894-9200

Topic: Redemptive-Historical Study of the The Psalms

West Hills

Sunday at 6:30/monthly

Leaders: Nathan Maack (assisting Elder John Martinez)

Contact: (917) 916-7550

Topic: Joshua

Sunday Morning Sunday School & Worship

Adult & Children's Sunday School

Prayer at 9:30am.

Sunday School is held for both our children and adults from 10:00-10:45am each week. The adult class is held in the Fellowship Room. Children's classes are available for ages 3 and above. For more information see below:

Adult:

- Downstairs Fellowship Room – 1 Peter

Children's Sunday School:

Littles [Pre K – 1st]

- “Show Me Jesus” – Nursery

Lower Elementary [2nd – 3rd]

- “Show Me Jesus” – Upper Room South

Upper Elementary [4th – 6th]

- Genesis 2 Revelation – Upper Room North

Middle School [7th – 9th]

- Westminster Shorter Catechism – Galpin Building

Basic Beliefs:

{A new class began on 1/14/24 and there is still room for you!}

We meet at 10 a.m. in the Pastor's Office. For those interested in a personal relationship with God, exploring the distinctives of the Reformed faith, or membership in this particular body of believers - Church Office- Pastor Ron - This does not obligate you to join the church but you do need to attend if you desire to become a member of VPC. Let Pastor Ron know, or the church office if you are interested.

Post-Worship Fellowship & Snack

Refreshments and fellowship on the North Patio.

Children are Welcome in Worship

As part of the covenant family of God, we encourage you to keep your children with you in worship regardless of their age, so that they may follow your example in worshipping God. Don't worry if your children are a bit restless or noisy. However, if your child is too restless or noisy during a worship service, please use the Fellowship Room right off the Narthex.

Nursery is available for parents accompanying children 3-years old and younger. Drop-off care is unavailable at this time. The nursery has a quiet room available for nursing mothers. We are looking for a Nursery Coordinator so that we can resume drop-off nursery care. Please consider serving in this way and reach out to Pastor Ron if you are willing.

Prayer & Praise

Praise! Chris Livingston underwent surgery on January 22 and the tumor was successfully removed. No further surgery will be needed!

**JANUARY
2024**

Announcements & Needs

February 25, 2024 Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting following worship:

We will be reviewing the budget for 2024 and conducting the election of VPC officers.

2024 Sunday Suppers: June 30, September 29, and December 29

Sunday Suppers are held on 5th Sundays following the Worship Service. Please bring a dish to share as we enjoy a fellowship meal together in the Upper Room. There are food warmers, a refrigerator, and outlets available in the kitchen if you wish to drop off food beforehand. If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Siddall.

Baby Shower For Betty Bacon – February 17th at 12 noon (VPC Upper Room)

Ladies, we are hosting a Baby Shower for Betty Bacon and we want you to be a part of the joyous celebration! Come together for an afternoon of fellowship as we celebrate this beautiful time in Betty's life. Please RSVP to Jess Herr: jessherr18@gmail.com

Officer Nominations 1/7/24 to 2/4/24

One of the regular responsibilities of the congregation is to nominate men to serve VPC as elders and deacons. The session is calling on you to enter into a season of prayer and consideration of men in the congregation who might be qualified to serve the church in this way. Starting today and concluding on 2/4/24, the elders are requesting that you nominate men for the office of elder and deacon. A 2024 Officer Nomination Process packet is available in the narthex, or can be accessed on the VPC website.

Women In The Word

Women's Community Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00am in the VPC Fellowship Room. New Format! Teaching God's Word! Make New Friends! Fun Discussions! Praying For One Another! Coffee and Treats! We look forward to meeting you! {No Childcare Provided}

Communion Elements Preparation

We are in need of one or two more individuals/families to help prepare the Communion elements and clean up each week. Participation would likely be once or twice per month. Please see Deacon Nathan Maack if interested in learning more. Thank You!

Connecting at VPC

If you are a new, or recent visitor to Valley Presbyterian Church, please email the church so we can add you to the VPC email list to keep you in the loop with the latest church news.

valleypresbyterian@gmail.com

Following Worship - Pastor and Elders are available for prayer or counsel

Our Elders and Pastor have been set apart by God for the spiritual care of those the Lord brings to VPC. Life has many ups and downs and our undershepherds make themselves available each week after the worship service to care for those in need. The Bible calls us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (and everything in between). Wherever you find yourself this morning please don't be shy about seeking out a pastor or elder for prayer or counsel. Feel free to speak to one of them at the Narthex doors as you exit if you would like to meet with them for counsel or prayer.

Although we will no longer have the offering boxes in the narthex, you will continue to have the option to give online at <https://www.valleypresbyterian.org/giving>

-If you need assistance, be sure to ask an usher-

**Sunday School Takes Place Every
Sunday!**

Sundays | 10am

Mid-Week Gathering!

Wednesday | 7pm

Jan.31 - Ancient Church History: Dr. Godfrey video and discussion

Location: VPC Fellowship Room



**A Church Where God's
People Gather, Grow and Go
For The Glory Of God**

9200 Haskell Ave.
North Hills, CA 91343
(818) 894-9200
valleypresbyterian.org

Reverend Dr. Ronald Svendsen
(Sr. Pastor)
ronald.svendsen@gmail.com

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The LORD's Day