



VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Liturgy for
January 14, 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†

Hymn of
Praise† #457

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come thou fount of ev'ry blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of God's unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither to thy help I'm come
And I hope by thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wand'ring from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation
and Prayer of
Adoration

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Salutation

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: People of God, what do you believe?

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*catholic: meaning worldwide not Roman Catholic

Doxology † #733

Praise God from whom all blessings 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

Elder Edgar Figueroa

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

Elder Edgar Figueroa

Declare His Praise †

Only A Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down

Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As We Pray For
Our World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

As We Give To
God's Work
Throughout the
World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture
Reading

Matthew 14:22-36

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

Walking On Water

GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Communion

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Song of
Response †

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land
Where my possessions lie

All o'er those wide extended plains
Shines one eternal day
There God, the Son forever reigns
And scatters night away.

I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land

No chilling wind nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore
Where sickness, sorrow, pain and death
Are felt and feared no more

I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land

When shall I see that happy place
And be forever blessed
When shall I see my Father's face
And in His bosom rest

I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land

God's
Benediction †

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Postlude

Ben Mason

Notes

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

- Please continue to pray for Chris Livingston as he will be having surgery on his leg on January 22 and 26.

**JANUARY
2024**

Announcements & Needs

February 11, 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.

Women's Tuesday Evening Book Study, January 23

Join us for a time of fellowship and intentional discussion about the book Sacred Bond: Covenant Theology Explored. We will meet on Tuesday, Jan 23 from 7-8:30pm. Location TBD
Please contact Theresa Martinez for any information at jtmarz06@gmail.com

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 Pastors 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.17 - 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**

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(818) 894-9200
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Reverend Dr. Ronald Svendsen
(Sr. Pastor)
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The LORD's Day