



Valley Presbyterian Church

Liturgy for
Jan 9, 2022



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 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
† #100

Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy all the saints adore thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy though the darkness hide thee
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see
Only thou art holy there is none beside thee
Perfect in pow'r in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy Merciful and mighty
God in three Persons blessed Trinity

WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Prayer of
Adoration

Pastor Jason Petterson

Salutation

Pastor Jason Petterson

Confession of
Faith

The Apostles' Creed

• **Standing if Able**
* **Bold:** The congregation
responds together

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 OF HIS PEOPLE

Confessing
Our Sin

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Jason Petterson

O Lord our God, please forgive us for forgetting You are jealous of our love and zealous for Your glory. Forgive us for looking elsewhere for what You alone can give. We have worshipped other gods in what you have created rather than desiring, loving, and serving You our Creator. Forgive our wayward ways, anxious thoughts and unruly emotions which trust what is untrustworthy. Make us to be people who worship You, and You alone.

Assurance of
Pardon

Pastor Jason Petterson

Declare His
Praise †

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done

Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

Praise the Lord!
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness; new every morn
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father, so tender, is calling us home
He welcomes, the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

Praise the Lord!
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness; new every morn
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

Praise the Lord!
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness; new every morn
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more

GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As New
Members Of
Christ's Body Are
Added

Rudy Reyes

Song of
Response †

We Are The Body Of Christ

One heart, one spirit, one voice to praise You.
We are the body of Christ.
One goal, one vision, to see You exalted.
We are the body of Christ.

And to this, we give our lives, to see You glorified.

• **Standing if Able**
* **Bold:** The congregation
responds together

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We are the body of Christ.

As We Pray
For Our World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

As We Give To
God's Work
Throughout
The World

Pastor Jason Petterson

Out of gratitude for the abundance of God's faithfulness and blessings, we offer to God a portion of what we've been given for the work of God's kingdom in this world. We remember the words of Jesus: "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8) We're invited to spend these moments reflecting on the blessings we have received.

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture
Reading

Acts 24

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

Always On Trial

GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Communion

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn of
Response † 585

Take My Life, and Let It Be [vs. 1, 2, 3, & 5]

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to thee
Take my moments and my days

Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee
Swift and beautiful for thee

Take my voice and let me sing
Always only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from thee
Filled with messages from thee

Take my will and make it thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart it is thine own
It shall be thy royal throne
It shall be thy royal throne

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

God's
Benediction †
His Good Word
to His People

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)

Encino

Sunday at 7pm/monthly

Host/Leader: Elder Jeff Oxman

Contact: 818-616-2373

Topic: The Gospel of Mark

Northridge

Sunday at 7pm/monthly

Host/Leader: Elder Bruce Mateko & Larry Shaw

Contact: 818-886-1233

Topic: The Lives and Teachings of The Apostles

North Hills

2nd & 4th Sundays at 4pm

Host/Leader: Elder Jaime Garcia

Contact: 818-631-0408

Topic: Westminster Confession of Faith

West Hills

Sundays at 6pm

Host/Leader: Elder Alex Bryer

Contact: (818) 521-6475

Topic: James

Valencia/Santa Clarita

Sunday at 2pm

Leader: Pastor Jason

Topic: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Santa Clarita

2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00pm

Leader: Pastor Ron

Contact: 818-894-9200

Topic: "Knowing God" by J. I. Packer

Burbank

6:00pm

Leader: Pastor Ron

Contact: 818-894-9200

Topic: "Knowing God" by J. I. Packer

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 – Going Through The Old Testament: Matthew 1-5 {next week – Matthew 6-10}

Children's Sunday School:

- [Ages 8 & up] Westminster Shorter Catechism - Upper Room North - Elder John
- [Ages 3-7] Beginners Kids' Quest Catechism Club - Upstairs in the South Room - VPC Members Carly Mischke and Theresa Martinez

Basic Beliefs: {a new class will being early this year}

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 Jason if you are willing.

Prayer & Praise

- Please continue to pray for Anna Cowen and her family as they cope with loss of her mother Consuelo.

**JANUARY
2022**

Announcements & Needs

Women In The Word:

Women's Community Group has begun meeting again 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} During this holiday season we will not be meeting on December 21st through January 4th. We will resume on January 11th.

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>

Piano Restoration Fund:

Our piano has served the church well for over 40 years but it is now in need of major repair or replacement. Session has approved a fund to meet this need. If you would like to support this project, as you give you need to note that your gift is for the piano. Thanks for your generosity!

Roofing Project News:

We will continue to enter the church through the north patio doors, now that the work has moved back from the edge of the roof. The heating & air conditioning system is still off this week, but may be back on for next Sunday.

After another rainy week, we are now about three to four weeks behind schedule. Gas lines are all connected, and they are working to complete the electrical conduits/connections, and the copper condensation lines.

Serving at your side,

The Deacons

Connecting at VPC

If you are new, or a 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 - Pastors 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 meet with them for counsel or prayer.

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

**Sunday School Takes Place Every
Sunday!**

Sundays | 10am

Mid-Week Bible Study!

Wednesdays | 7pm

Pastor Jason will be teaching on The Gospel of John.

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)
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Reverend Jason Petterson
(Associate Pastor)
jason.petterson@gmail.com

Liturgy for Jan 9, 2022
The LORD's Day