



VALLEY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Liturgy for  
April 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](mailto: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.



# LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

Prelude  
Welcome

Ben Mason  
Pastor Ron Svendsen

## GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Call to Worship  
+

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Hymn of Praise  
#302 +

### **Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

Come Christians join to sing Alleluia, Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King, Alleluia, Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
Praise is his gracious choice, Alleluia, Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia, Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky, Alleluia, Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end, Alleluia, Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia, Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain, Alleluia, Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, Alleluia, Amen!

## WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation and  
Prayer of  
Adoration +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Salutation +

Confession of  
Faith +

The Nicene Creed

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Pastor: People of God, what do you believe?

**All: *We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic\* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for† the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

*(\*catholic: meaning worldwide not Roman Catholic; †“for” not because of, or as the means of our sins being remitted but as representative of our sins being remitted.)*

Gloria Patri  
#734 +

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.

## **GOD RESHAPES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE**

Call to  
Confession

Elder Edger Figueroa

Through  
Confessing  
Our Sins  
Publicly and  
Privately

**Most holy and merciful God, who has searched and known us, and is acquainted with all our ways, we confess before you our sinfulness and seek your forgiveness. We have failed in our duty; we have forgotten our high calling; we have fallen into many temptations. We have dishonored your name; we have injured our neighbors; we have hurt our own souls. Give us, we**

**pray, the spirit of true repentance, that we may turn from our sins and forsake them with our whole heart; and in your great love, have mercy on us and absolve us from our guilt; for the sake of your Son, our savior Jesus Christ.**

Assurance of  
Pardon

Declare His  
Praise +

### **His Robes for Mine**

His robes for mine, O wonderful exchange!  
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered 'neath God's rage.  
Draped in His righteousness, I'm justified.  
In Christ I live, for in my place He died.

His robes for mine, what cause have I for dread?  
God's daunting law, Christ mastered in my stead.  
Faultless, I stand with righteous works not mine,  
Saved by my Lord's vicarious death and life.

I cling to Christ and marvel at the cost:  
Jesus made sin, forsaken on the cross.  
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.  
My praise-my all-shall be for Christ alone.

His robes for mine, God's justice is appeased.  
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father's pleased.  
Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "Tis done!"  
Sin's wage is paid, propitiation won.

I cling to Christ and marvel at the cost:  
Jesus made sin, forsaken on the cross.  
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.  
My praise-my all-shall be for Christ alone.

His robes for mine, such anguish none can know.  
Christ, God's beloved, condemned as though His foe.  
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;  
I, as though He, embraced and welcomed home!  
I cling to Christ and marvel at the cost:  
Jesus made sin, forsaken on the cross.  
Bought by such love, my life is not my own.  
My praise-my all-shall be for Christ alone.

## **GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE**

As We Hear of  
God's Word at  
USC

Ty Gregory

As We Pray for  
Our World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

As We Give to  
God's Work  
Throughout  
the World

Elder Edgar Figueroa

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

Scripture  
Reading

Matthew 18:15-35

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

When Sin Happens in the Church

## **GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US**

Hymn of  
Preparation  
#261 +

### **What Wondrous Love is This**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul. *(continued next page)*

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM";  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Communion

Pastor Ron Svendsen

## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Song of  
Response +

### **We Will Feast in the House of Zion**

We will feast in the house of Zion.  
We will sing with our hearts restored.  
He has done great things, we will say together.  
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire,  
He is the LORD our God  
We are not consumed, by the flood  
Upheld, protected, gathered up

We will feast in the house of Zion.  
We will sing with our hearts restored.  
He has done great things, we will say together.  
We will feast and weep no more.



In the dark of night, before the dawn  
My soul, be not afraid.  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.  
We will feast in the house of Zion.  
We will sing with our hearts restored.  
He has done great things, we will say together.  
We will feast and weep no more.  
Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the Faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together, bring shalom.  
We will feast in the house of Zion.  
We will sing with our hearts restored.  
He has done great things, we will say together.  
We will feast and weep no more.

God's  
Benediction +  
Postlude

Pastor Ron Svendsen

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*

Leaders: Elders Bruce Mateko & Larry Shaw  
Contact: 818-886-1233  
Topic: Review/Discussion of Sunday's Sermon

### North Hills

*2nd & 4th Sundays at 3:30pm*

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*

Leaders: Elders Jesse Cook & Edgar Figueroa  
Contact: 818-894-9200  
Topic: Redemptive-Historical Study of 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 at 10:00-10:45am. Classes are held for both our children (ages 3 and above) and adults each week. For more information see below:

#### Adult:

Downstairs Fellowship Room – Apologetics

#### 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 Begins This Fall):

For those interested in a personal relationship with God, exploring the distinctives of the Reformed faith, or membership in this particular body of believers. Attending 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 or the church office know 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 currently unavailable. 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 pray for Kaylane Davis' boyfriend's dad, Jake Thorne, who had a stroke on 4/6. Pray for the doctors to figure out why he had the stroke and have a plan to heal him. Also, pray for his wife to be comforted and her health to not suffer.

Praise! Bob Taylor came through his 4/8 surgery well. He will meet with his doctor on 4/17 to discuss the findings.

## Announcements & Needs

### Connecting at VPC

If you are a new or recent visitor to Valley Presbyterian Church, please email the church at valleypresbyterian@gmail.com so that we may add you to the VPC email list to keep you in the loop with the latest church news.

### 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

Join us for a time of fellowship and intentional discussion about the book *Sacred Bond: Covenant Theology Explored*. Please contact Theresa Martinez for any information at jtmarz06@gmail.com.

### Women in the Word

Women’s Community Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00am in the VPC Fellowship Room. 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)

### Meal Ministry Opportunities

Please consider serving the body of Christ by providing meals to families during crucial moments of their lives. Please contact Theresa Martinez for any information at jtmarz06@gmail.com.

### Nursery Coordinator Opportunity

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.

### Musician Opportunity

Please contact Ben Mason at info@benmasonmusic.com if you are interested in serving on the music team through singing or playing an instrument.

**-If you need assistance, please ask an usher-**

## Budget Update

VPC YTD as of March 31, 2024		Pre-School YTD as of March 31, 2024	
Tithes & Offerings	\$155,113.84	Income	\$97,119.65
Expenses	\$138,080.78	Expenses	\$121,943.62
Profit/Loss	\$17,033.06	Profit/Loss	-\$24,823.97

Sunday School Takes Place Every Sunday

Sundays | 10am

Mid-Week Gathering

Wednesday | 7pm

Location: VPC Fellowship Room

Topic: 2 Thessalonians



**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](http://valleypresbyterian.org)

Reverend Dr. Ronald Svendsen  
(Senior Pastor)  
[ronald.svendsen@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.svendsen@gmail.com)

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The LORD's Day