



VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Liturgy for
March 17, 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

Lauren Mason
Pastor Jonathan Keenan

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Call to Worship

+

Elder John Martinez

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

Invocation and
prayer of
adoration +

Pastor Jonathan Keenan

Salutation +

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. Amen.

GOD RESHAPES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

Elder Jaime Garcia

Confession of
Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1

Elder: 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.

Elder: How many things are necessary for you to know, that you in this comfort may live and die happily?

People: Three things: First, the greatness of my sin and misery. Second, how I am redeemed from all my sins and misery. Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.

Through
Confessing
Our Sins
Publically
Privately

Psalms 51:1-2

In Unison: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Assurance of
Pardon

Declare His
Praise +

O GREAT GOD

O great God of highest heav'n occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme conquer every rebel pow'r
Let no vice or sin remain that resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
Make me Yours forevermore.

I was blinded by my sin, had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within, had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then Your Spirit gave me life, opened up Your Word to me
Through the gospel of Your Son,
Gave me endless hope and peace

Help me now to live a life that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised with my every thought and deed
O great God of highest heav'n,
Glorify Your Name through me.

GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As We Pray For
Our World

Pastor Jonathan Keenan

As We Give To
God's Work
Throughout
the World

Elder Jaime Garcia

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture
Reading

Romans 3:21-26; 4:1-8

Pastor Jonathan Keenan

GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Hymn of
Preparation

#247 +

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

Communion

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of
Response #252

+

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it Lord that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to his blood

See from his head, his hands, his feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

God's
Benediction +

Postlude

Pastor Jonathan Keenan

Lauren 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

Please continue to pray for the Sanchez family as they grieve the loss of their son Eren.

Please continue to uphold in prayer those who are coping with cancer including: Bob Taylor, Joe Arco and John Elerick.

**MARCH
2024**

Announcements & Needs

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 jmarz06@gmail.com

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}

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

Meal Ministry Opportunities

Please consider serving the body of Christ by providing meals to these families during such crucial moments of their lives. Please contact Theresa Martinez at jmarz06@gmail.com. Thank you for your love and service to the body at VPC.

Easter Season at VPC

Good Friday Service 3/29/24 at 7pm

Easter Brunch 3/31/24 at 9:30 am – no Sunday School

Special Congregation Meeting 4/7/24

Following the worship service on 4/7/24, there will be a Special Congregation Meeting to discuss our Bylaws

Per the VPC Session: Here is the wording for the Notice of Intention for the Congregational Meeting, dated April 7, 2024:

Current reading of By Laws 11.4:

Communicant members must be at least 18 years of age to be entitled to vote at any Congregational Meeting
Communicant members must be the age of majority in the State of California to be entitled to vote at any Corporational Meetings.

Revised language for By Laws 11.4 reflecting the PCA's Book of Church Order:

25-1. The congregation consists of all the communing members of a particular church, and they only are entitled to vote.

25-7. All the communing members on the roll of that church shall be members of the corporation.

6-4. Those only who have made a profession of faith in Christ, have been baptized, and admitted by the Session to the Lord's Table, are entitled to all the rights and privileges of the church (Cf. 6-2).

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

**Sunday School Takes Place Every
Sunday!**

Sundays | 10am

Mid-Week Gathering!

Wednesday | 7pm

March 20 - Ancient Church History Video & Discussion. 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