



**Valley Community  
Presbyterian Church**

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Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE  
Sunday, December 24, 2023

# GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE

Tim, Becky, Henry & Elsie Grosshuesch  
Pete, Mariah, Aurora & Walter Messer  
Martin, Olivia & Calvin Buller  
Hunter, Sheila, Ben & Sam Sheldon

Dear God, you come to make yourself known to us in a loving relationship. You come with a message of peace and comfort for all of us who are worried and tired. As you did on that first Christmas eve, be with us again today so we can learn about your message of love from you and from one another. In the name of your Child, Jesus Christ who lived among us. Amen.

HYMN #100

## *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?*

### Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.*

*Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.*

*Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)*

### PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Rev. Richard Buller

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

### MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

### RESPONSE TO GOD'S PROMISE IN ADVENT

*Oh, the light shines in the darkness, and the light will not be overcome.  
In this world broken and scattered the light will not be overcome.*

## HEARING THE WORD

### TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

Congregational Blessing: You are God's beloved child.  
With you God is well pleased.

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Fum, Fum, Fum*  
Arr. Valerie Stephenson

Valley Handbells

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

### SERMON

*It's Who You Are*

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### HYMN #99

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God* (verses 1–3)

*My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.*

*My God has done great things for me; yes, holy is God's name.  
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.*

*From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,  
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Christmas Joy Offering*

Janet Triplett

### OFFERTORY

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace. Amen.

## SENDING US OUT

### HYMN #119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (verses 1 & 2)

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

## Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 24

Sponsored by **Jan & Joe Sacco**

In honor of our beloved pastor Richard Buller.

Please click [HERE](#) to dedicate your chancel flowers.

# Joys and Concerns

Prayers of joy for the **Karwan family** as their Special Immigration Visa has been approved! This ensures the family can safely and permanently stay in the USA. Thank you to all who helped with the Karwan family!

Prayers for **Charlotte Davnie** who was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had a port put in on Dec 4 and started her first chemotherapy infusion on Dec 6.

Continued prayers for **Lisa Kummer** whose chemo drug Sassy has failed. Her cancer didn't respond to it, so they are moving on to find one that does. The CT scan showed that the cancer spots in her lungs, sternum, and neck lymph nodes had all grown, along with some new spots in her neck and lungs, and a spot on her back or spine. A spot on one of her ribs which has actually led to a fracture in that rib. Her biggest ask is for prayers that this new drug works, the cancer stops growing, and that she can manage the side effect. Click [HERE](#) to visit Lisa's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** who had a scan on 12/18/23 and the results showed the trail drug is holding back the cancer. A small victory, but they're thankful. Click [HERE](#) to visit Taichi's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Rick Carlson** as he recovers from a heart and kidney transplant he had at Abbott Hospital on Nov 28. Rick is now recovering at home! Click [HERE](#) to visit Rick's Caring Bridge site.

## EASY WAYS TO GIVE TO VALLEY AND/OR COMMUNITY PARTNERS GIVE ONE TIME OR RECURRING

### 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK TO VALLEY

- In the memo of the check, indicate what your donation is for (i.e. Pledge, PRISM, etc.)

### 2. ONLINE GIVING

- Visit Valley's secured online giving by clicking [HERE](#) to make a one-time or recurring gift to Valley or our community partners.

**RECURRING GIFTS:** Sign in, or create a new account.

**ONE-TIME GIFTS:** Click "[Quick Give](#)" to send a one-time gift.

### 3. AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS FROM YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

- Contact Chelsie Larsen: 507-272-1914 | [chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net](mailto:chelsie.larsen@valleychurch.net) to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.



# 2023 Poinsettia



Peggy Neibling & Brooking Family  
Betsy Nichols  
Janet & Len Biggs  
Roger Michael

Greg & Mary Rom

Ruth & Aron Wilterding  
Ben & Lisa Kummer  
Margie Deutsch  
Carole & Rick Martens

Jill Toering  
Thomas & Stacy Ondov  
Jan & Joe Sacco

Sharon & Brad Pleimling  
Barb & Tom Wasmoen

Richard & Jean Ann Buller  
Roger Graphenteen

Mandy Lund  
Jim Parks & Family

Jim & Diane Cook  
Lyn Boyd & Family  
Mark & Shirley Toering  
Juliana Vogel  
Rick & Janet Carlson

Becky Grosshuesch  
Valerie Robinson  
Mark Freeman

In memory of Betty Brooking  
In memory of Doug & Trudy Nichols

In memory of our parents

In memory of Marian Michael

Fred & Blanch Benner, and Earl & Dorothy Michael

In memory of Michael Hnatko, Elizabeth Hnatko Hicks  
Ray & Barbara Rom, and Paul Hicks

In memory of our daughter JoAnna

In memory of Dave Turany

In memory of Manfred Deutsch

In honor of our Martens, Schmidt,  
and Wendorf family

In memory of Richard Hagle

In honor of our loving parents

In memory of Carol & Jack Rock

In memory of Jean & Tom Sacco

In honor of a peace-loving world

In memory of Patricia & Lu Wasmoen

In honor of John & Patricia Ingmand

In honor of our beloved Valley Community

In memory of my parents Palmer & Dorothy Graphenteen  
and Daughter Allyson Rose

In memory of Donovan & Julie Lund

In memory of Karla Parks, Delbert & Lorraine Parks,  
and Melbert & Shirley Holzer

In honor of Friendship Group

In memory of Arvel & Marilyn Koehn

In honor of our children & grandchildren

In memory of Juliana's mother Carolyn Habert

In honor and gratitude of everyone who  
prayed and continues to pray for the Carlson family

In memory of Betty Allabough

In honor of Sheila's birthday

In memory of Eldon Mastin, Donald Freeman,  
and Karen Pratt-Freeman



# 2023 Poinsettia



Rachel, Brian & David Hole

In memory of Tyler Hole, Rev. Howard Skulstad,  
and Bob Kreutzian  
In honor of Richard, Jean Ann, Peter, & Martin Buller

Mary & Larry Dunham

In memory of Kenny & Janet Fox,  
Ray Fox, Terry Fox, and Dale Dunham

Gwyn Lang

In honor of my mom Margaret Faber

Mary Ann Winter

In honor of my grandchildren  
In memory of Isabel Leaf

Jerry & Chris Phelan

In memory of Chris' parents  
John & Helen Kromel

Bonnie Nelson

In memory of Vicki Wheeler and Violet & Harold Nelson

Les & Arlene Freeberg

In honor of our grandchildren

Deb Poynter

In memory of my parents Rev. & Mrs. William Niles  
In honor of Valley youth

Karen Harms

In memory of my heavenly family celebrating Valley Church

Gwen Rouleau & John Zieska

In honor of our parents and grandparents

Todd & Katie Decker

In memory of our grandparents

Jay & Sara Perry

In memory of Steve Copenhaver

Gail & Doug Smith

In memory of Gail's parents  
Dr. & Mrs. F. W. Lanand, and Gail's sister Nancy Warner

Terry & Bonnie Goslinga

In memory of Terry's sister Sharon Swanson

Becky Brooking

In honor of Peggy Neibling

Susie Potter

In memory of my parents Jan & George Potter

Lois Robinson

In memory of Gordon Robinson

Lynn Thier

In memory my dad Lloyd Pedersen, my sister Kristy Oakley,  
and grandpa George Spencer

Jackie & Bennett Goiffon

In memory of Bennett's grandparents  
Marie & Lorrin Bullberg

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

In memory of Barbara Johnston



**You may pick up your Poinsettia(s) after the 9:30 pm Christmas Eve service.**

# This Week at Valley

Sunday, December 24

9:30 am Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau Preaching

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

4:30 pm Christmas Eve

Family Service

9:30 pm Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25

Office Closed—Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

Thursday, December 28

10:00 am Meals on Wheels

Friday, December 29

Saturday, December 30

Sunday, December 31

9:30 am Worship Service

Adult & Child Baptisms

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

A special thank you to our  
Worship Stream Team  
Katie Decker, Myron Jones,  
Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen,  
Janet Triplett, Brandon Novy,  
Roger Graphenteen, and  
Kurt Wheeler, for broadcasting  
the services!

# Valley Staff

## Ministers

All 403 members of this  
congregation.

## Pastor & Head of Staff

Rev. Richard D. Buller

## Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon

## Office Administrator

William Glasper

## Program & Communications Coordinator

Mariah Messer

## Music Coordinator

Rachel Williams

## Choral & Handbell Director

Janet M.T. Carlson

## Sunshine Room Leader

Jamese Decker

## Custodian

Hunter Sheldon

## PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Jim Cook

Rev. Bill Davnie

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau

Rev. David Phillips

Rev. Nancy Phillips

Rev. Rebecca Tollefson

Rev. Aron Wilterding

## SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 17: 293 (167 in-person)

December 10: 325 (149 in-person)



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday, December 24, 2023

**4:30 PM | MUSIC 4:15 PM**

Christmas Eve Family Service

**9:30 PM | MUSIC 9:15 PM**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Communion





Sunday, January 7, 2024 | 3:00pm

# ORGAN CONCERT

In honor of **CHUCK MEYER'S** 86th Birthday  
Celebration at Valley

- ☀️ Enjoy organ music from Jane & Bob Nienaber!
  - ☀️ Enjoy cake and coffee after the music!
  - ☀️ Donations fund PRISM Birthday Supplies for kids!
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## Rev. Richard Buller's Last Sundays in the Valley

Valley   
Community  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024:**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO END THE PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP WITH  
REV. RICHARD BULLER

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024:**

REV. RICHARD BULLER'S LAST SUNDAY IN THE VALLEY



# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024: MLK JR. DAY



**8-12 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

1605 Douglas Drive North  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Contact **Andrew Pitan** or **Valley**  
for sign-up instructions.



## Valley Community

**2024**  
**PER CAPITA**  
**\$38.50**

Your per capita supports the larger church  
to do their ministry in the world.



# Chancel Flowers Sign-up



\* SPONSORS \* PURCHASERS \* ARRANGERS \*  
SUGGESTED \$30 MINIMUM

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall  
or click this ad!



## THESE DAYS

*Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*



JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | 2024

Physical copies of *These Days* can be mailed upon request.  
**Contact the office:** [office@valleychurch.net](mailto:office@valleychurch.net) | 763 588 0831

# WELCOME TO VALLEY COMMUNITY

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We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in worship, programs, and mission at Valley Community Presbyterian Church.

*Please join us for worship  
Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 am*

Rev. Richard Buller Preaching  
"An Old Man and a Baby"

Welcoming 3 New Members  
3 Adult Baptisms | 2 Children Baptisms

## Musicians

Kaia Sand, oboe

Rachel Williams, piano

Lots of Christmas carols!

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, apple cider, and Christmas treats!

*Have a blessed Christmas season  
from your friends at Valley*

(763) 588-0831  
VALLEYCHURCH.NET  
3100 NORTH LILAC DRIVE  
GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55422