



**Valley Community
Presbyterian Church**

First Sunday of Advent: HOPE
Sunday, December 3, 2023

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

Ave Maria
Arr. Lorie Line

Rachel Williams, piano

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC

Still, Still, Still
Arr. Ken Gist

Lisa Beckstrom, harp

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

Joel, Chelsie, Aubrie & Jack Larsen

Dear God, thank you for this special season of advent. We are excited that Christmas is coming, and we can sing the special carols and remember the story of Bethlehem. Keep us hopeful this December and bring your light of hope to our community and our world. Amen.

HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1 & 6)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Sheila Sheldon

Loving God, when December comes, we often pay more attention to satisfying our own needs than opening our hearts to your coming and to your will for our lives. As we plan for the season, we become preoccupied with material things instead of being attentive to those who need your love.

During this season, we ask you to guide us in ways of service and prayer. Prepare our hearts to receive your love that was born in a manger. Tune our ears to your words and your teaching. Move us toward generous giving to those who are in need of food, shelter, or warm clothing. May your love be our call as we renew our lives to be your faithful people. This we pray in Jesus' name. 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

Do Not Find Me Sleeping Valley Choir
Pamela Martin, arr. Jon Paige Lisa Beckstrom, harp

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

My Words Will Not Pass Away Rev. Richard Buller

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #357

The Days Are Surely Coming (verses 1 & 2)

*The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.*

*The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

World AIDS & HIV Awareness

Mariah Messer

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Jim Cook

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Blessed Assurance

Phoebe Knapp, arr. Glenda Austin

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In silence we have come to hear your voice, dear God. The Bread and the Cup that we have shared have reminded us of your Son who is coming to show us the ways of hope and peace. Help us to live in your Spirit's presence and hear your voice as we serve those who need your love and grace in their lives this Advent season. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

HYMN #129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (verses 1 & 3)

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Arr. Phillip Keveren

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, December 3

Sponsored by **Charles Stanhope**
In honor of Richard & Jean Ann Buller
and their years of ministry at Valley!

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

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for **Lois Schmidt** who is in rehab at Redeemer Residence after falling and fracturing her pelvis.

Prayers for the family and friends of **Louise Driver** who passed away on Nov 27 at the age of 93. Funeral service will be at Valley Dec 11 at 11am.

Prayers for **Becky Brooking** as she prepares for shoulder surgery on Dec 6 at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale.

Prayers for **Carolyn Kaehr** who was rushed to HCMC by ambulance on Nov 21 because she fell. She had a small stroke with a mild concussion. They are running various tests.

Prayers for **Charlotte Davnie** who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is recovering from surgery. She will be starting chemotherapy on Dec 5.

Continued prayers for **Lisa Kummer** who has changed chemotherapy regimens after her latest bloodwork and tests showed some disease progression. Lisa and her doctors are very confident that this new regimen will be effective.

Click [HERE](#) to visit Lisa's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** whose scan results included the words stable and decrease! Taichi feels good with no side effects. Weekly appointments will continue for 6 weeks. We are grateful for all the support!

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.

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 to set up withdrawals directly from your account. You can always adjust the amount.

This Week at Valley

Sunday, December 3

9:30 am Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent—Hope

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

4:00 pm Youth & TEAMS

1:00 pm Brew Crew

Monday, December 4

11:30 am Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 6

Thursday, December 7

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

Friday, December 8

7:00 pm Fridays in the Valley

Saturday, December 9

9:00 am Christmas Pageant Practice

Pageant Sunday, December 10

9:30 am Worship Service

Second Sunday of Advent—Peace

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

4:00 pm Youth & TEAMS

A special thank you to our
Worship Team, especially
Katie Decker, Myron Jones,
Larry Johnson, Joel Larsen,
Janet Triplett, Brandon Novy,
and Roger Graphenteen 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

James 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

November 26: 270 (114 in-person)

November 19: 282 (142 in-person)

Valley Brew Crew

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 1:00-6:00 PM

PAT DAILY'S HOUSE

use your church directory or contact the office

**Great craft beverages!
Test out a new holiday appetizer!**

**CONTACT JAY PERRY FOR DETAILS:
763-438-2476 | j_perry3@yahoo.com**



**Fridays in
the Valley
Presents:**



ABOVE AVERAGE TUBA QUARTET

Friday, December 8, 2023 | 7:00 pm

FREE-WILL OFFERINGS BENEFIT
PRISM HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE

 Valley Community

ADVENT 2023 SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, 12/3

9:30 AM • 1st Sunday of Advent • Worship with communion

SUNDAY, 12/10

9:30 AM • 2nd Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant (during worship) | Baptism of Sam Rudeen

SUNDAY, 12/17

9:15 AM • 3rd Sunday of Advent • Christmas Music Sunday

11:00 AM | Christmas Cookie Exchange

SUNDAY, 12/24

9:30 AM • 4th Sunday of Advent • Worship Service

Rev. Kate O'Brien Soltau Preaching

4:30 PM • Christmas Eve Family Service (music starts at 4:15 pm)

9:30 PM • Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion

Advent in
the Valley

 Valley Community



PRISM 2023 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

VALLEY IS COLLECTING NEW,
UNWRAPPED TOYS AND GIFTS FOR
PRISM'S HOLIDAY TOY SHOPPE



QUESTIONS
CONTACT THE
CHURCH OFFICE

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- ACTION FIGURES
- TODDLER TOYS
- SPORTS ATTIRE
- BLANKETS
- NERF TOYS
- LEGOS
- GAMES
- **GIFT WRAP SUPPLIES**
- TEEN GIFTS (HEADPHONES, GAMING KEYBOARDS, HAIR TOOLS, SLIPPERS)
- \$25 GIFT CARDS (TARGET, AMAZON, VISA, ETC.)

DROP OFF
GIFTS AT
VALLEY BY

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 10**



Cookie Exchange

Sunday,
December 17
11:00 am

Fellowship Hall



ATTENTION COOKIE BAKERS!

BAKE 6+ DOZEN OF YOUR FAVORITE COOKIE(S) AND
BRING THEM TO FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THE BIG SWAP!

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or email Katie Decker (katiebdmn@gmail.com)
or Sheila Sheldon (sheila.sheldon@vallechurch.net).



Valley Community



ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO MAKE AN ALTERNATIVE GIFT DONATION THIS SEASON!

SEE ARLENE FREEBERG IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!

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

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

—Established May 20, 1951—

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Valley Community Presbyterian Church sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.

3100 Lilac Drive North
Golden Valley, MN 55422
www.valleychurch.net
Office: 763-588-0831
Phone Ministry: 763-220-1455



Scan to give online!