



Valley Community

PC(USA)

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

GATHERING US IN

PRELUDE

"El Shaddai" by Michael Card and John W. Thompson

Rachel Williams

Arr. by Steve Millikan

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING MUSIC "Traumerei" by Robert Schumann

OPENING SENTENCES

† **Hymn #395** *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* (verses 1 & 2)

Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.
By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sheila Sheldon

Holy God, We are forever learning. We want to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. But we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher." Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Make us brave enough to ask you questions. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith deeper. With hope and humility we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO THE GOOD NEWS #395

Glorious Lord, yourself impart, light of Light, from God proceeding.
Touch our lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your church now raises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

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

SPECIAL MUSIC "Give Me Jesus" Arr. by Larry Shackley

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 18:15-22

SERMON Forgive Us Our Sins Rev. Jim Cochrane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† Hymn # 300 ***We Are One in the Spirit***

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: (Refrain)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)

PRAYER 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 Empty Bowls Pat Daily

OFFERTORY "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Arr. by Jay Althouse

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, we offer these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive the offering of our lives and fill us with your grace, that all creation might feast on your unending life. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING US OUT

† Hymn #757

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" by Lowell Mason, Arr. by Melody Bober

The Worship Has Ended. The Service Begins.

Portions of liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, March 17

Sponsored by Valley Community.
In honor of our AMAZING staff!

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

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of healing for **Janet Carlson** who had lower back surgery on 3/14/24.

Prayers for **Tom Magill** who had a knee replacement on 3/12/24 at Mercy Hospital and prayers for **Pam Magill** who had an angiogram on 3/15/24 at North Memorial.

Prayers of healing for **Mark Toering**, who had back surgery and is recovering at home.

Continued prayers for **Charlotte Davnie** as she continues her chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer. She had her recent infusion on 2/7/24 followed by radiation.

Continued prayers for **Lisa Kummer** for her ongoing management of her breast cancer. She had her first radiation appointment on February 27 to treat the tumors on her brain. She is still waiting results of her most recent scan and is grateful to have such an amazing care team that really cares about her, not just as a patient but as a person. Click [HERE](#) to visit Lisa's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Taichi Chen** who had a scan on 1/30/24 and the results showed that things are stable. Taichi's next scan is in 4 weeks. The Chens are focusing on their gratitude for all the love, support, and people through this journey. Click [HERE](#) to visit Taichi's Caring Bridge site.

Continued prayers for **Rick Carlson** who is happy to be home after a recent stay at the hospital to treat C-DIFF. 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.

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, March 17

9:30 am Worship Service

Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

4:00 pm Youth / TEAMS Group

Monday, March 18

Tuesday, March 19

11:30 am VCPC Men's Lunch

5:00 pm Empty Bowls @ Cooper

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 20

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner

Thursday, March 21

10:00 am Bible Fellowship

7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Saturday, March 23

2:00 pm Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 24

Palm Sunday

10:30 am Fellowship Hour

4:00 pm Youth / TEAMS Group

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 402 members of this
congregation.

Transitional Pastor

Head of Staff

Rev. Jim Cochrane

Educational Ministries Director

Sheila Sheldon

Office Administrator

Savannah Martinez

**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

March 3: 226 (124 in-person)

March 10: 219 (115 in-person)



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | March 17 | 11:00 AM
INTERNET CULTURE AND DISINFORMATION
BRANDON SCHORSCH - JEWISH COMMUNITY ACTION

In this session **Brandon Schorsch**, Combating Hate Organizer at Jewish Community Action, will walk us through a brief history of internet cultures, how the structure of today's internet creates opportunities for violent extremism, and introduce several resources for building a healthy digital literacy toolbox.

Hosted in The Cornerstone Room



Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Adult Education | March 24 | 11:00 AM
SUSTAINABILITY GROUP: HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Have you wondered what you can do as an individual, as part of a group, and/or as part of wider systems change? Come and share your resources, what you are doing, and which organizations you learn from and support to make an impact for climate justice.

Hosted in The Cornerstone Room



Easter Flower Dedications



- Mary Ann Winter**.....In honor of our children and grandchildren
- Greg & Mary Rom**.....In memory of Michael Hnatko, Betty Hicks,
Ray & Barbara Rom,
and Paul Hicksm
- Terry & Bonnie Goslinga**.....In honor of our new grandson, Wayne W. Goslinga
- Betsy Nichols**.....In memory of Doug & Trudy Nichols
- Mandy Lund**.....In memory of Donovan & Julie Lund
- Peggy Neibling**.....In memory of Betty Brooking
- Scott & Valerie Robinson**.....In memory of Gordon Robinson
and Derald Sullivan
- Margie Deutsch**.....In memory of Manfred Deutsch
- Sarah Fadell**.....In memory of Donald Fadell
- Rev. Nancy Phillips**.....In memory of Nellie Ireland Phillips
- Susie Potter**.....In memory of Jan & George Potter
- Brad & Sharon Pleimling**.....In honor of a peaceful world
- Beverly Mattin**.....In memory of my husband Charles Mattin
- Mark & Shirley Toering**.....In loving memory of our parents
- Carole & Rick Martens**.....In honor of Martens & Wendorf families
- Jim Parks**.....In loving memory of Karla Parks,
Delbert & Lorraine Parks,
and Melbert & Shirley Holzer
- Rev. Jim & Diane Cook**.....In honor of the Friendship Class
- Jan Fedora**.....In memory of Tom Fedora, husband
and Richard Woodbury, brother



Easter Flower Dedications



- Roger Michael**.....In memory of Marian Michael
- Brian & Rachel Hole**.....In memory of Rev. Howard Skulstand,
Bob Kreutzian
and Tyler Hole
- Kerrie Deef**.....In memory of grandparents Martie & Bob Siegler
and in-laws Marge & John Deef
- Gwyn Lang**.....In honor of my mother Margaret Faber
- Roger Graphenteen**.....In memory of my parents Palmer & Dorothy
and daughter Allyson Rose
- Karen Harms**.....In honor of my mom, dad, and sister Cindy
- David & Helen Dechaine**.....In memory of George & Dorothy Marchant
and Albert & Opal Dechaine
- Becky Brooking and Jacob LaBelle**.....In honor of Rev. Jim Cochrane
and Rev. Richard Buller
- Les & Arlene Freeberg**.....In honor of our grandchildren
- Ruth & Rev. Aron Wilterding**.....In memory of our daughter
JoAnna Wilterding Albers
- Jim & Lisa Tarbell**.....In memory of James Tarbell Sr. and Sherrill Mixer
- Lois Robinson**.....In memory of Gordon Robinson
- Mariah & Pete Messer**.....In honor of our parents & grandparents
- Jan & Joe Sacco**.....In honor of our grandchildren
August, Roman, and Estelle
- Cheryl Smith**.....In loving memory of my parents Ken & Gay Smith
- Sheila & Hunter Sheldon**.....In loving memory of Jack Sheldon

A Letter from Rev. John McCall

Serving in Taiwan Spring 2024



My Foot Washing Teacher

Dear friends,

After 27 years of living in Asia, I am often struck by the fact that the Bible is an Asian book. As I live among the Taiwanese, I see how the culture of this continent has shaped the culture of the Bible. Jesus was Middle Eastern, not Western, and he lived in an Eastern culture.



The story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet on the last night of his life is told from an Asian perspective. Peter is an Asian student who knows that his teacher should not be washing his feet. Often Taiwanese Christians will describe themselves as students of Jesus.

So, Peter protests and Jesus understands his protest by saying, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand" (John 13:7). It is hard to break out of our cultural view.

But Jesus constantly breaks through the view of the world and brings in a new culture, the culture of God's Kingdom.

This is a beautiful story because it once again shows the freedom of Jesus. Hierarchy and status were of great importance in Jesus' Asian culture, just as they are equally important today.

One of the worst things in Taiwan is to "lose face." You don't want anyone to look down on you. But because Jesus knew who he was as a beloved child of God, because he knew that God had put all things into his hands, because he knew that he would be returning to his place of honor in heaven, he was free to do the work of a servant. He shattered Asian cultural norms by kneeling and washing the feet of his students.

When we know who we are as beloved children of God, we are also free to serve with joy and abandon. When we know that our eternal destiny is in God's hands, we don't have to worry about our status.

Our status does not come from how many people like our posts on social media, but our status, our worth, comes from the God who creates us and redeems us and loves us with an unconditional love.

Peter needed his worldview shattered. He spent his days with Jesus, but most of the time he did not understand this kingdom which Jesus was ushering in. Peter's value system was shaped by Asian culture, but Jesus is a firm teacher, "If I don't wash your feet, you can't be part of what I am doing." If you hold on to the old-world view, you can't walk in my way and love with my love. And Peter, with all of his shortcomings, is open to change. "Not just my feet but wash my head and my hands too!"

One Holy Week I designed a Maundy Thursday service for our seminary community at Taiwan Seminary. The students in my class were the leaders of this service. When it came time for the foot washing, I had asked an Indigenous student named Isa to wash the feet of his classmate. The liturgy for this service was abundant, and I was paying attention to the time.

But as Isa knelt to wash his classmate's feet, he was in no hurry. He poured the water over the feet and slowly washed them. He not only washed them; he began to massage them. He lovingly caressed the feet of his classmate seemingly oblivious to the time or the rest of us in that chapel. I was transfixed and said to myself, "here is your teacher of how to wash feet in the name of Jesus." In the past, I had poured water and then casually dried the feet of the one I was serving. But Isa gave me a new vision. "Whatever you do, do it with love."



Now when I wash feet, I am never in a hurry. I do it in the name and spirit of Jesus. My student became my teacher, which has happened more times than I can remember.

I've often thought that foot washing should be one of our sacraments, for Jesus told us to do it, just as he had done it. And when we do it, we are changed into the likeness of Jesus, who served with such freedom because he knew that he was loved by God and would return to God. As children of this same God, we can serve with that daring freedom. We can, as the hymn says, "be lost in wonder, love, and praise," as I was when I saw the way Isa washed his classmate's feet.

Gratefully,
John

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 20 | 6:00-7:15 PM

Join us in-person or virtually for our Wednesdays in Lent Fellowship time.

Join Pastor Jim for Wednesdays in Lent, a time to reflect on our faith both individually and as a community. Dinner will be hosted by Church Committees from 6:00-6:45pm. After dinner, we'll move into a more worshipful moment together. The discussions that we have during the Lenten season will be fodder for the Mission Study Committee in the spring when they will begin collecting information.

Members are encouraged to bring sides and desserts!
Last names A-L Dessert | M-Z Side dish

 Valley Community



EASTER EGG HUNT

VALLEY COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 23, 2024
@ 2:00 PM

Cookie decorating & refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the egg hunt.

*Event will be held outdoors this year, weather permitting.

 Valley Community

One
Great
Hour of
Sharing
PCUSA



Remember to bring your fish banks! We will **dedicate** our gifts on Palm Sunday, March 24.



Holy Week in the Valley



- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| Sunday, March 24 | 9:30 AM | Palm Sunday Worship |
| Thurs, March 28 | 7:30 PM | Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae service with communion |
| Sunday, March 31 | 9:30 AM | Easter Sunday Worship |

14TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS EVENT



Donations Benefit PRISM & NEAR Food Shelves

The 14th Annual Empty Bowls event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2024! Mark your calendars to help support PRISM and NEAR food shelves!



TUESDAY, MARCH 19 | 5:00-7:30 PM | COOPER HIGH SCHOOL

PACK THE PEWS FOR PRISM

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) has announced its 41st March Campaign in partnership with Minnesota FoodShare.

That means it's time to **PACK THE PEWS, VALLEY!**

Donation Deadline: **MARCH 24**

SUGGESTED ITEMS

Sugar & Flour (5lbs)

Pasta Sauce

Cereal

Canned Vegetables

Cooking Oil

Tuna & Chicken

Peanut Butter

Pasta





Valley Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Opening Lives to God

—Established May 20, 1951—



LOGO DESIGN BY WÓOKIYE WIN
(SISSETON WAHPETON DAKHÓTA
AND OJIBWAY)

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.

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Scan to give online!