

27 May 2012

# west valley presbyterian church

a church for the West Valley



christ who lives in me

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

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## revering our triune Creator.

### call to worship

from Psalm 19:1-4, 14

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...

Let the words of OUR mouths and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, our rock and our redeemer!

### prayer of anticipation

## I sing the mighty power of God

I sing the mighty power of God,  
That made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
And built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord,  
Who filled the earth with food,  
Who formed the creatures through the Word,  
And then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed,  
Where'er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
Or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below,  
But makes Thy glories known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
By order from Thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from  
Thee is ever in Thy care;  
And everywhere that we can be,  
Thou, God art present there.

## from Psalm 19.7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;  
the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;  
the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.  
Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

## come ye sinners-offering

1. Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,  
Full of pity, joined with power:  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing; doubt no more.
2. Come ye needy, come, and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.
3. Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry 'til you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.
4. Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requires  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.
5. Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;  
Pleads the merit of His blood.  
Venture on Him; venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.

# recognizing total Fallenness.

## communal consideration and confession of sin

from Psalm 19:12-14 and James 4:1-4

adapted from the Valley of Vision, Book of Puritan Prayers

Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.  
Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
**let them not RULE (have dominion) over me!**  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?

Is it not this, that your **passions** are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your **passions**. You adulterous people!

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Heavenly Father,

Save me entirely from sin. I know I am righteous through the righteousness of another, but I pant and pine for likeness to you; for this I wait. I am your child and should bear your image. Enable me to recognize my death to sin! When it tempts may I be deaf to its voice! Deliver me from the invasion and dominating rule of sin in this world! Deliver me from the disbelief and doubt that this is possible. Grant me to walk in the fullness of Christ - to live in the newness of his life, the life of love, the life of faith, the life of holiness. Grant his resurrection power in me, and so rule me by his passion. Amen.

# rehearsing total Redemption.

## personal and communal of grace

from psalm 32.1-2

elder: Blessed is the one whose transgression IS forgiven, whose sin IS covered.

people: **Blessed is the one against whom the Lord counts no iniquity**

**Thanks be to God through Jesus our righteousness!**

## O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

## community moment

the paradox of community groups

# Word

children's sermon  
Jim Powell, pastor  
Galatians 2:11-14

## ruling passions

*But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"*

**what happened. when. where.**

**Peter's ruling passion:**

**Paul's ruling passion:**

**what is a ruling passion?**

1. Identify one ruling passion.
2. Articulate the "vow" underneath the passion. (i.e. "I will never be hurt.")
3. What may have occurred in your history to make this particular issue/commitment a ruling passion?
4. How does this ruling passion operate below the waterline? How does it affect the motivations of your heart?
5. When do you (and others) see your ruling passion most clearly? When is it activated?
6. How does your ruling passion affect those around you?
7. What is your mechanism of denial (or medicating) your ruling passion and its effect?
8. How has your ruling passion sabotaged (or may be currently, or could) your ministry and relationships?
9. Do you believe that God can redeem your ruling passions...

## be thou my vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;  
High King of heaven my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won;  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever be-fall;  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all

# anticipating total Glory.

## Sacrament

examine yourself - I Corinthian 11.23-28

## benediction

from Galatians 1.3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age. Amen.

# the sacrament of the Lord's table

## Coming to the Lord's Table

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful gift from God. It is a "sacrament" – not so much a commanded "ordinance" where we obediently offer ourselves UP to God in participation, as much as it is a nourishing spiritual gift of grace sent DOWN to us by God.

At the Table, we are not simply prompted to cognitively remember the sacrifice of Christ, but rather, through it the Lord spiritually feeds us as we "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). The physical nourishment is a sign and symbol (sacrament) of the reality of spiritual nourishment – which is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come (Matthew 26:26-29). The early church appeared to have cherished the Lord's Table weekly – "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread..." (Acts 20:7)

*The church of Christ has celebrated the Lord's Supper in numerous ways over the centuries. At West Valley, we use two approaches to the table, both of which communicate spiritual truths.*

## When the bread and cup are passed to us we are especially reminded of these truths:

- The work of Christ unites us not only to himself, but to each other. The gospel is not just about "me and Jesus". I am part of a larger family, the body of Christ, the church of Christ.
- As we pass the plates to each other we are reminded of the priesthood of all believers and the privilege of giving grace to each other.
- When we eat and drink at the same time, we are reminded of our deep spiritual unity in Christ. We partake of one spiritual food.

## When we come forward for the bread and cup we are especially reminded of these truths:

- Jesus calls me into a personal relationship. I am called to come to Jesus in faith and repentance. Coming forward to the Table is a vivid picture of personal faith.
- We come forward as families, because "this promise is for you and your children." (Acts 2:39)
- The words of the gospel from those who serve ("the body of Christ given for you, the blood of Christ shed for you") remind me of the intensely personal nature of Christ's sacrifice - "... he who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

## Prayer for those searching for truth:

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen*

## Prayer of belief:

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen*

## Prayer for those struggling with sin:

*Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings too closely, and to run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen*

*adapted from New Life Dresher, PCA*

# potter's wheel - wvpc kids ministry

**nursery (0-24 months) and toddlers (2s-3s):** offered during entire service.

**children (4yrs-5th grade):** dismissed to classes following children's sermon, returning to families prior to the Lord's Supper

Room available for nursing mothers located through side hallway door:

Parents: have you received a copy of our children's ministry policies and "agreement to be a blessing"? If not, please see Rachel. Thank you for partnering with us as we join you in your calling to mold your children with the word/hands of the Potter (Isaiah 64:8)

QUESTIONS: contact Rachel at [rachel@westvalleypres.org](mailto:rachel@westvalleypres.org) or 610.762.0786

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## upcoming opportunities:

## wvpc announcements

### parents-of-youth meeting

THIS Thursday, May 31, 7pm. Parents of teens, please plan to join us for an elder-led conversation that we want you to be a part of!

### benefit concert at cornerstone presbyterian, June 4 at 7pm.

Gotee Records artists Tim Skipper (of House of Heroes) and Stephanie Smith. They will perform acoustic tracks of their most popular songs. Also featuring YWAM ministry band Liz & the Lions and Easton native, Kailian Bayer. The \$10 door charge for anyone 12 and over goes to cornerstone's diaconate Mercy Ministry Fund, as well as a CareNet of the Lehigh Valley Loose Change Fundraiser.

### now hiring

West Valley is looking to hire 2 part-time staff employees: a church assistant, and an arts and technology assistant. If interested, there are expanded job descriptions on the back table. Please see either Jim or Alyssa for an application, or email [office@westvalleypres.org](mailto:office@westvalleypres.org).

### carenet baby bottle fundraiser

This Sunday begins the Baby Bottle Campaign for Care Net Pregnancy Centers of the Lehigh Valley. Please take an empty baby bottle and sign it out on the back table, collect change this month, and bring it back on Father's Day. We at West Valley love to support men and women in crisis pregnancies by raising funds for Care Net. Be a part of the fun starting this Mother's Day!

### iron pigs night and a movie

Saturday, June 30, go see the Iron Pigs play at home and catch "Courageous" the movie, right after the game. Promotions for the movie will be shown before and during the game and follow up information given out during the night for men or families interested. Please contact Richard Shaffer for more information. [shaffer3965@gmail.com](mailto:shaffer3965@gmail.com) or 610-737-4110.

## ongoing experiences:

### wvpc community groups

**Christison/Nussbaum group** (Macungie): Studying the life of David, meets **Sundays 6:30-8:30pm**, at the Nussbaums.

For more details and directions, contact Dominic Christison at: [christison.d@gmail.com](mailto:christison.d@gmail.com)

**Reed Group** (Zionsville): Studying Philippians, meets **every other Friday, 7pm**. FMI contact Alyssa at 610.393.9777

**Royes/Aiello Group** (Breinigsville)- **Every other Sunday 6-8pm** at the home of Jeff and Danielle Aiello. FMI contact the Aiellos at: 610.844.5247

**Buck group** (Emmaus): **Wednesdays 7-8:30**. "Getting to the Heart of Parenting" DVD series with Paul Tripp and discussion afterwards. For more details, please contact Chip or Karen Buck: 610.442.4866

### wvpc women's groups

"Idols of the Heart:" by Elyse Fitzpatrick. Contact Jane Nussbaum at [mattjanenussbaum@hotmail.com](mailto:mattjanenussbaum@hotmail.com) or 610.295.3626

**Morning Study:** 9:30-11:30am on Thursday mornings starting next week, at church, childcare available (\$2 donations per child if desired) Thurs. May 3-31: 5 week study based on the book *Loving the Little Years* by Rachel Jankovic

**Evening Study:** monthly on Monday 7:30-9:30 at the home of Annie Burdine. FMI Annie [annieburdine@gmail.com](mailto:annieburdine@gmail.com).

Ashley Hartley is going to be hosting a prayer night for the ladies on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 8pm.

### wvpc men's groups:

Saturday mornings @ church, 7-8am. FMI, contact Richard Shaffer 610.737.4110 [shaffer3965@gmail.com](mailto:shaffer3965@gmail.com)

Mondays at 8:30pm. at the church. FMI, contact John Gibbons 484-515-0717 or [GIBBONJ@airproducts.com](mailto:GIBBONJ@airproducts.com)

### Word work!

Gentlemen, join pastor Jim on Wed. mornings from 7:30-9am to study the text he is preaching on the following Sunday. No need to RSVP.