



VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Liturgy for
April 13, 2025

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 Avenue | 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.



LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome

Ben Mason
Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Call to Worship +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Pastor: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Pastor: Lo, your king comes to you;

People: Triumphant and victorious is he

Pastor: humble and riding on a donkey

People: on a colt, the foal of a donkey

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. who is this King of glory?

People: The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory?

People: The Lord Almighty – he is the King of glory.

Hymn of
Praise
#101 +

Come Thou Almighty King

Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise.

Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious,

Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend.

Come, and thy people bless, and give thy Word success;

Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.

Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart,

And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three eternal praises be, hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.

WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation
& Prayer
of Adoration +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Pastor: O Lord of hosts, God of Israel who is enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.

Salutation +

People: Incline your ear and hear the shouts of your people; open your eyes, O Lord, and look graciously on our hosannas; receive our worship through the holy work of your Son Jesus Christ.

Confession of
Faith +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

**Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died,
Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus: Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Gloria Patri
#734 +

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

GOD RESHAPES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

Call to
Confession

Elder Edgar Figueroa

Through
Confessing
Our Sins
Publicly &
Privately

Trinity Psalter – Psalm 51

God, be merciful to me, on thy grace I rest my plea; plenteous in compassion thou, blot out my transgressions now; wash me, make me pure withing, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess, grief and guilt my soul oppress; I have sinned against thy grace and provoked thee to thy face; I confess thy judgment just, speechless, I thy mercy trust.

Broken, humbled to the dust, by thy wrath and judgment just, let my contrite heart rejoice and in gladness hear thy voice; from my sins O hide thy face, blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true; cast me not away from thee, let thy Spirit dwell in me; thy salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart.

Assurance of
Pardon

Elder Edgar Figueroa

Song of
Praise +

Only a Holy God

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?

Who else could make every king bow down?

Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?

Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?

What other splendor outshines the sun?

What other majesty rules with justice?

Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.

Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.

Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?

What other power can raise the dead?

What other name remains undefeated?

Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God!

Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

Through the
Reading of
Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 2

Elder Edgar Figueroa

New Testament Reading: Colossians 1:15-23

Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As We Pray
for Our World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

As We Give to
God's Work
Throughout
the World

Elder Edgar Figueroa

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture
Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

“The King Has Come”

Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Song of
Preparation +

Oh, to See the Dawn (The Power of the Cross)

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning Your blood-stained brow.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life—"Finished!" the victory cry.
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suff'ring I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless Love!
This the pow'r of the cross: Son of God—slain for us.
What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

Communion

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Passing of the
Peace +

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of
Response
#235 +

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems before thee we present:
To Thee, before thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King!
All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!

God's
Benediction

Postlude

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Ben 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-Glendale-Pasadena

6:00pm

Leader: Pastor Ron
Contact: 818-894-9200
Topic: 1 Thessalonians

North Hills

2nd & 4th Sundays at 3:30pm

Leader: Elder Jaime Garcia
Contact: 818-631-0408
Topic: Westminster Confession of Faith

Northridge

Sunday at 7pm/monthly

Leaders: Elders Bruce Mateko & Larry Shaw
Contact: 818-886-1233
Topic: Review/Discussion of Sunday's Sermon

Santa Clarita

2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00pm

Leader: Pastor Ron
Contact: 818-894-9200
Topic: 1 Thessalonians

Valencia/Santa Clarita

Sunday at 2pm

Leaders: Elders Jesse Cook & Edgar Figueroa
Contact: 818-894-9200
Topic: Redemptive-Historical Study of 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 at 10:00-10:45am. Classes are held for both our children (ages 3 and above) and adults each week. For more information see below:

Adult:

“Route 66,” An Overview of the Books of the Bible | Downstairs Fellowship Room

Children's Sunday School | Brewer Hall

Pre-K-1st Grade, Alexander Scott

- Show Me Jesus: Jesus is God

2nd-4th Grade, Nathan Maack

- Show Me Jesus: God's Servants

5th-6th Grade, Merilyn Velasquez

- G2R: 1 Corinthians to Philemon

Middle School and Up, John Martinez

- Westminster Shorter Catechism Q's 1-38

Basic Beliefs | 11:00am, Saturdays

For those interested in a personal relationship with God, exploring the distinctives of the Reformed faith, or membership at VPC. Attending 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 or the church office know if you are interested and join us in Pastor's office on Saturday!

Post-Worship Fellowship & Snack

Refreshments and fellowship on the North Patio.

Children are Welcome in Worship | Nursery Available

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 needs an alternate location, please use the Fellowship Room right off the Narthex.

The nursery is open and wonderful volunteers are ready to watch your little ones during the church service. Please visit the nursery for more information!

Prayer & Praise

Please be in prayer for Chris and Sharon Livingston. Chris is going through a difficult time with dialysis and scans as he battles cancer; pray for Sharon as she cares for and comforts her husband.

Mid-Week Gathering

Date/Time: Wednesday, 7pm

Location: VPC Fellowship Room

Topic: “Dust to Glory” by R.C. Sproul

Serving at VPC

Music Ministry & Audio & Visual Team

We are looking for singers and instrumentalists who are interested in serving on the music team. Additional volunteers to run sound for the service and capture video for the livestream are needed. Training is provided. If willing to serve, please email Ben Mason at info@benmasonmusic.com.

Ushers & Parking Lot Security Volunteers

Please contact Ed Arreaga at earreaga@verizon.net for more information.

Meal Ministry

If you, or anyone you know at VPC is in a difficult season where meals would be helpful, please reach out to the Deacons or directly to Theresa Martinez (jtmarz06@gmail.com), to set up a meal train so we may serve you.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Connecting at VPC

If you are a new or recent visitor to Valley Presbyterian Church, please email the church at valleypresbyterian@gmail.com so that we may add you to the VPC email list to keep you in the loop with the latest church news.

Good Friday Service | Friday, April 18, 6:30pm

Please join us for our Good Friday communion service this week.

Choir Practice | Saturday, April 19, 10:00am

Please contact Ben Mason at info@benmasonmusic.com for music and rehearsal tracks.

Women in the Word | Tuesday Mornings, 10:00am

The Women's Community Group meets in the VPC Fellowship Room on Tuesday mornings. Please join us for a time in God's Word and prayer as we enjoy coffee and treats, friendship, and wonderful discussions. No childcare provided.

Women's Tuesday Evening Book Study

We are going through the book *The Lord of Psalm 23* by David Gibson. Please contact Theresa Martinez (jtmarz@gmail.com) for more information.

Monthly Middle & High School Event

The Youth will meet at the Cooks' home for our monthly Table Talk, in which we are thankful for their hospitality to the covenant community at VPC. If you already have plans, or would rather pass on this recurring event, that is okay. Perhaps in the future, interests may change. We will get together at the end of every month for the year, and you are always welcome to have your child/ren join us. If you have questions, please reach out to Elder John Martinez at 818.336.2179 or firejohn777@gmail.com.

-If you need assistance, please ask an usher-



**A Church Where God's
People Gather, Grow and Go
for the Glory of God**

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Reverend Dr. Ronald Svendsen
ronald.svendsen@gmail.com

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The LORD's Day