



VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Liturgy for
January 12, 2025

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

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
Elder Edgar Figueroa

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Call to Worship + Isaiah 42:5-9

Elder Edgar Figueroa

Hymn of Praise
115 +

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire, so masterful and bright that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care,
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one.
O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation
& Prayer
of Adoration +

Pastor Roy Bennett

Salutation +

Confession of
Faith +

Pastor Roy Bennett

Westminster Confession of Faith 20:1-2

1. The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law; and in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin, from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a childlike love, and willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the law; but under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.

2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship. So that to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience is to betray true liberty of conscience; and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.

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

Joel 2:12-13

Elder Edgar Figueroa

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Through
Confessing
Our Sins
Privately

Assurance
of Pardon

Elder Edgar Figueroa

Song of
Praise +

Christus Victor (Amen)

O, Most High, King of the ages, Great I AM, God of wonders;
By the blood You have redeemed us, led us through mighty waters.
Our strength, our song, our sure salvation:
Now to the lamb upon the throne be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle you have won. Hallelujah! Amen.

O, Most High, dwelling among us; Son of man, sent for sinners.
By your blood you have redeemed us; spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
Who lived, who died, who rose victorious:
Now to the lamb upon the throne be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle you have won. Hallelujah!
With every tribe and every tongue,
We join the anthem of the angels in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

O, Most High, King of the nations; Robed in praise, crowned with splendor.
On that day, who will not tremble? When You stand, Christ the Victor
Who was, and is and is forever:
Now to the lamb upon the throne be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle you have won. Hallelujah!
With every tribe and every tongue,
We join the anthem of the angels in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As We Pray
for Our World

Pastor Roy Bennett

As We Give to
God's Work
Throughout
the World

Elder Edgar Figueroa

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture
Reading

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 27:1-14
New Testament Reading: Luke 2:25-34

Pastor Roy Bennett

Message

“The Satisfaction of a Longing Heart”

Pastor Roy Bennett

GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Hymn of
Preparation
#247 +

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighted down;
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, has suffered was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest Friend,
For this, thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Communion

Pastor Roy Bennett

Passing of the
Peace

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Song of
Response +

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

God's
Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor Roy Bennett

Postlude

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, Jess Herr

- Show Me Jesus: God Keeps His Promises (The Patriarchs)

2nd-4th Grade, Nathan Maack

- Show Me Jesus: Trusting God (Psalms)

5th-6th Grade, Edgar Figueroa

- G2R: Matthew to Romans

Middle School and Up, John Martinez

- Athanasian Creed

Basic Beliefs | 11:00am, Saturday, January 11

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

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.

Nursery is available for parents accompanying children 3-years old and younger. Drop-off care is currently unavailable, but we hope to resume this soon! The nursery has a quiet room available for nursing mothers.

Prayer & Praise

Please continue to pray for Bob Taylor as he awaits the results of the scan he underwent on 1/7. Please pray for accuracy as the doctors proceed with decisions regarding treatment.

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

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.

Women in the Word

Women's Community Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00am in the VPC Fellowship Room. Teaching God's Word! Make New Friends! Fun Discussions! Praying For One Another! Coffee and Treats! We look forward to meeting you! (No Childcare Provided)

Nursery Volunteer Meeting | Today, After Service

If you have signed up to volunteer in the nursery, please attend the informational training meeting in the fellowship room after today's church service.

Women's Tuesday Evening Book Study | Tuesday, January 14

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

MTW Missionary Jan Stutheit Visit & Residence Request | February 8-9, 2025

Jan Stutheit, a Mission to the World missionary with over 20 years of service to Northern and Western Africa, provides theological education and degree programs for pastors, pastoral candidates and Christians interested in broadening their understanding of reformed theology as a basis for Christian ministry. Jan will be visiting VPC on Sunday, February 9th and sharing about her ministry during Sunday School and our worship service. Jan needs a place to stay February 8-9. If you can provide her with a room, please contact Bruce Matek) in-person, at 818-523-9337, or via email (bmateko@aol.com). Due to cat fur allergies, Jan is looking for a cat-free home.

Donna Doepke Service | February 21, 2025

Donna Doepke went to be with the Lord peacefully in her sleep on Sept 4th after suffering from Alzheimer's and a stroke. For those who did not know her, she was a wife, pastor's wife to Paul who pastored at Covenant Evangelical in Chatsworth, mom, grandma, and a member of VPC for many years. She raised four kids on her own when Paul died of cancer at the very young age of 44. She will be greatly missed but we know she is with Jesus, and we will reunite with her when it is our time. Pastor Ron will lead our celebration of her life at VPC on February 21, 2025 (exact time TBA) and all are welcome. Please keep our family in your prayers at this time for strength and peace. – Susie, Julie, Laura, and Stephen Doepke

Meet Pastor Roy Bennett, Today's Guest Pastor

Pastor Roy Bennett is a third-generation Californian. He is a graduate of Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia and Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He has pastored churches in the United States and Canada and is an experienced church planter and ordained Teaching Elder of the Presbyterian Church in America. Roy is honorably retired and lives in Ojai with his wife, Norma Jean. He has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Budget Update: YTD as of 12/31/24

Tithes and Offerings: \$659,598.38

Expenses: \$622,898.14

Profit and Loss: \$36,700.24

Preschool Disbursement: \$757.81

-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