



VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Liturgy for
January 26, 2025

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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

Hymn of Praise
92 +

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation
& Prayer
of Adoration +

Psalm 121:1-2

Pastor Ron Svendsen

All: We lift our eyes to the hills. Where does our help come from? Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Salutation +

Confession of
Faith +

Pastor Ron Svendsen

The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: People of God, what do you believe?

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*(*catholic meaning worldwide not Roman Catholic)*

Doxology
#733 +

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia! Praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

GOD RESHAPES THE HEARTS AND LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

Call to
Confession

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Through
Confessing
Our Sins
Privately

All: Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature which is prone to evil and from which flow all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in forgetting your love. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. We are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Teach us to hate our sins and cleanse us from our secret faults. Forgive us for the sake of your dear Son and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, according to the commands of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance
of Pardon

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Song of
Praise +

His Mercy is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done;

Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.

Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam;

What Father, so tender, is calling us home.

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.

Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us;

His blood was the payment, His life was the cost.

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Through the
Reading of
Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 42
New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:3

GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE

As We Pray
for Our World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

The Lord's
Prayer

**All: Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be they name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

As We Give to
God's Work
Throughout
the World

Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Scripture
Reading

Isaiah 49:1-50:3

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Message

"The Servant of The Lord and Beyond"

Pastor Ron Svendsen

GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US

Song of
Preparation +

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer;
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken;
For by my side, the Savior, He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven;
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

Communion

Pastor Ron Svendsen

Passing of the
Peace

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Hymn of
Response
#274 +

Thine Be the Glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, thro' thy deathless love;
Bring us safe thro' Jordan to thy home above.
Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.

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, 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, 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

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 pray for wisdom for Bob Taylor and his medical team as they make decisions regarding treatment of his esophageal cancer. Weekly chemotherapy and daily radiation have been recommended but the side effects can be taxing.

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)

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. Location and Time TBD

February Church Workday | Saturday, February 1, 8-10am

Please join the Deacons as we clean up the leaves and branches around Galpin Hall and other areas, time permitting. Feel free to bring a rake and other suitable tools. Another group will be painting the church nursery—see Eder Velasquez for details. Another church workday is planned for Saturday, April 5.

MTW Missionary Jan Stutheit Visit | 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.

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

Mid-Week Gathering

Date/Time: Wednesday, 7pm

Location: VPC Fellowship Room

Topic: "Dust to Glory" by R.C. Sproul

-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
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The LORD's Day