



VALLEY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

Liturgy for  
March 1, 2026

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THE BOOK OF  
**Colossians**

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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](mailto: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. 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 under shepherds 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 +

Hymn of  
Praise  
#347 +

### **The Church's One Foundation**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

# WE COME TO GOD BY FAITH

Invocation  
& Prayer  
of Adoration +

Salutation +  
Confession of  
Faith +

## **Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 27 & 28**

Pastor: What do you understand by the providence of God?

**People: The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.**

Pastor: How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

**People: We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.**

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 Larry Shaw

Through  
Confessing  
Our Sins  
Publicly and  
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

Psalm of  
Praise  
Hymn 437 +

# O God, to Us Show Mercy (Psalm 67, *The Psalter*, 1912)

THE CHURCH:

437

## O God, to Us Show Mercy

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us. Ps. 67:1*

1. O God, to us show mer - cy and bless us in your grace;  
2. O God, let all men praise you, let all the na - tions sing;  
3. O God, let peo - ple praise you, let all the na - tions sing,

cause now to shine up - on us the bright - ness of your face;  
in ev - 'ry land let prais - es and songs of glad - ness ring;  
for earth in rich a - bun - dance to us her fruit shall bring.

that so your way most ho - ly on earth may soon be known,  
for you shall judge the peo - ple in truth and righ - teous - ness,  
The Lord our God shall bless us, our God shall bless - ing send,

and un - to ev - 'ry peo - ple your sav - ing grace be shown.  
and through the earth the na - tions shall your just rule con - fess.  
and all the earth shall fear him to its re - mot - est end.

Psalm 67  
*The Psalter*, 1912; alt. 1990, mod.

MEIRIONYDD 7.6.7.6.D.  
Welsh hymn melody  
William Lloyd, 1840; alt. 1990

Through the  
Reading of  
Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 71

New Testament Reading: Matthew 16:13-28

## **GOD USES HIS PEOPLE IN HIS SERVICE**

As We Pray  
for Our World

As We Give to  
God's Work  
Throughout  
the World

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

Scripture  
Reading

Colossians 4:7-18

Message

“The People of God’s Plan”

Pastor Ron Svendsen

## **GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH US**

Communion

Passing of the  
Peace +

# GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

Song of  
Response +

## **How Deep the Father's Love for Us**

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss—the Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life—I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart – His wounds have paid my ransom.

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 Svendsen

Contact: 818-894-9200

Topic: Proverbs

### **North Hills**

*2nd Sunday at 3:30pm*

Leader: Elder Jaime Garcia

Contact: 818-631-0408

Topic: Westminster Confession of Faith

### **Northridge**

*Sunday at 7:00pm/monthly*

Leaders: Elders Bruce Mateko & Larry Shaw

Contact: 818-886-1233

Topic: *Pray Big* by Alistair Begg

### **Santa Clarita**

*2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00pm*

Leader: Pastor Ron Svendsen

Contact: 818-894-9200

Topic: Proverbs

### **Valencia/Santa Clarita**

*Sunday at 2:00pm*

Leaders: Elders Jesse Cook & Edgar

Figuroa

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: Acts

## Sunday Morning Sunday School & Worship

### Adult & Children's Sunday School

Prayer at 9:40am.

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:**

**Study on Reformed Theology | Downstairs Fellowship Room**

**Basic Beliefs | Pastor's Office**

#### **Children's Sunday School | Brewer Hall**

**Pre-K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Patty Reyes**

Show Me Jesus: Jesus is God's Son

**2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Sue Colunga**

Show Me Jesus: Loving Jesus

**5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Grant Gates**

G2R: Exodus to Ruth

**7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, John Martinez**

Westminster Shorter Catechism

**9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Jesse Cook**

Consequence of Ideas

### 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 continue to pray for Ramona Savra as her healing from knee replacement surgery progresses.

## Mid-Week Gathering | March 4

Join us on select Wednesdays at 7pm in the VPC Fellowship Room as we discuss *Dust to Glory* by R.C. Sproul.

## Serving at VPC

### **Weekly Communion**

#### **Set-Up**

We need more volunteers to help prepare and cleanup the weekly Communion elements. If interested, please see Nathan Maack for more information.

### **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](mailto:info@benmasonmusic.com).

### **Ushers & Parking Lot**

#### **Security Volunteers**

Please contact Ed Arreaga at [earreaga@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:jtmarz06@gmail.com)), to set up a meal train so we may serve you.

### **Nursery Volunteers**

Please consider serving in the nursery! We need more adult volunteers and helpers to add to our rotating nursery schedule. Please reach out to Jess Herr if you have any questions

## 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](mailto: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 | Tuesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm**

We meet in the VPC Fellowship room on Tuesday mornings. Please join us for a time in God's word and prayer as we enjoy coffee, refreshment, friendship, and wonderful conversations. No childcare is provided. We are continuing in Tim Keller's book *Romans 1-7*.

### **Women's Tuesday Evening Book Study | TBA**

Please join us at the Martinez home for a time of discussion and encouragement around God's Word as we read the book *Echoes of Exodus: Tracing Themes of Redemption through Scripture* by Alistair J. Roberts and Andrew Wilson. Contact Theresa Martinez at [jtmarz06@gmail.com](mailto:jtmarz06@gmail.com) for more information and the address.

### **Basic Beliefs | Meeting in Pastor's Office on Sunday Mornings**

This class is for those interested in a personal relationship with God, exploring the distinctives of the Reformed faith, or membership at VPC. Attending 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 ([valleypresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:valleypresbyterian@gmail.com)) know if you are interested!

### **Outreach Training Session | March 15, After Worship**

VPC is putting on another outreach training service after the worship service on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to prepare "any member who desires or feels led" for Gospel-based outreach to the community. Meeting in the adult Sunday school room, lunch will be provided while speakers present their experience sharing the Gospel. The goal is to prepare members to share their faith with others in their community in accordance with 1 Peter 3:15.

### **Sunday Supper | March 29, After Worship**

Sunday Suppers are held in the Upper Room following the worship service on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Please bring a dish to share as we enjoy a fellowship meal together. There are food warmers, a refrigerator, and outlets available in the kitchen to place food that morning. Please contact Nikki Siddall with any questions.

### **Meal Train Opportunity | Gates Family**

We praise God and rejoice with the Gates family for the birth of their son, a baby brother to Imogen. Our new covenant child to VPC is Freddie Finnegan Freeman Gates. If you can serve the body of Christ by providing a meal for their family, please visit this link to sign up for a convenient date: <https://mealtrain.com/5w90k>.

### **Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting | Today, After Service**

**-If you need assistance, please ask an usher-**



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

9200 Haskell Ave.  
North Hills, CA 91343  
(818) 894-9200  
[valleypresbyterian.org](http://valleypresbyterian.org)

Reverend Dr. Ronald Svendsen  
[ronald.svendsen@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.svendsen@gmail.com)

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The LORD's Day