



# The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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## COFFEE AND A STORY

The addition of new family members always brings change—I knew it when Carrie and I had Sadie Lou, and I knew it when we adopted Sir Henry and Dame Frida a few years prior. I even realized it as a very small boy when my younger sister Katherine was born, and I simultaneously loved having a sibling and resented no longer being an only child.

I have said several times that Valley is a family that has been thrown a downright obscene amount of change over the past eighteen months, through no fault of any of us. Brother Gary was ready for a well-earned retirement, and simply transitioning from one minister to another is usually plenty of change for one congregation to process at one time.

But as you know, that was not the only change we were dealt. We have spent almost a full year worshipping online due to the covid-19 pandemic. But with the deployment of vaccines and a dramatic reduction in covid-19 cases, I hope that our time of online-only worship is nearing an end. I think it is—though we will continue the online option even after we return to in-person worship.

While we have made some small tweaks and changes together over these past six months, I have very purposefully held off on exploring any bigger changes with you precisely because we have been thrown more than enough change already for now.

Yet now, as pastor and parish brought together by the Holy Spirit, we experience any such change together. And that has been a rewarding reality to reflect on as I begin crafting sermon series that are not simply about allowing you to get to know me, but which represent collaborations between us. Our Lenten sermon series is the first fruit of that change from a “you and me” to an “us.” The series is rooted in the Advent devotional series we composed and enjoyed together last December, and each entry will begin in the first-person, just like our Advent devotions, and just like our upcoming Holy Week devotions. I am delighted to share the rest of the outline of the series with you here.

February 28: “Caiaphas,” John 11:47-52  
March 7: “Simon of Cyrene,” Mark 15:16-25  
March 14: “The Centurion,” Mark 15:33-39  
March 21: “Mary, the Mother of James and Joseph/Joses,” Mark 15:40-41, 47  
March 28: “Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus,” John 19:38-42  
April 4 (Easter Sunday): “Joanna & Salome,” Mark 16:1-8

I look forward to sharing the rest of this series with you as part of experiencing the rest of Lent together as an “us.”

Christ’s and yours,  
Pastor Eric

## GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND BEQUESTS MEETING

The Gifts, Memorials and Bequests Committee will meet on Wednesday February the 24th to discuss the distribution of the interest from the Endowment fund for the year 2020. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jim Taylor, Chair.

## WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

Let Love Flow

Remember, as we give to Week of Compassion, we are helping to see that “Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shades from the sun, shelter from the wind.” (Isaiah 49:10a). We are still receiving your gifts.

## LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Sarah Draper said it was just a joy to hear Margaret play the prelude and postlude.
- Ed Guindon is very grateful for all the members who worked at the church during Saturday Workday.
- Eric is so thankful for the ministries of Margaret and Ed also.
- Clarence Sellers has a severe case of vertigo and is in Princeton Hospital but should go home Monday.
- Peggy Hiller’s son, George Hiller, III in in St. Vincent’s recovering from a heart attack.
- Pastor Roberto of Primera Iglesia is asking for prayers for a Pastor and his wife’s family and friends of a Disciples church in San Diego. Both the pastor and his wife passed away recently from COVID.
- Please pray for all the people and family members of Margaret Cox and Ed Guindon who continue to be affected by the severe winter weather in Texas and Mississippi.
- Many thanks to Jan Watts for her lovely solo on Sunday 02-21-21.
- Please call or email the office with your prayer concerns, joys or reports to include in “Life In The Valley”.

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