



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Happy Easter! He is risen! No, that isn't a cut-and-paste error from last week's cover letter. We continue to celebrate Easter all the way to Pentecost Sunday, which this year falls on May 23. While I will be absent from this Sunday's Eastertide worship on Zoom for some much-needed vacation at the beach, I am delighted to introduce to you my colleague and friend Rev. Melinda Gapen, an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She will be preaching on the well-known story of doubting Thomas in John 20, and I know you will be in good hands—hers and those of Jesus that Thomas sees!

Please use following phone numbers and links between 10:15am and 10:30am. You can join in one of two ways:

By computer, smart phone or tablet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623?pwd=OTFUQWJvU21MMmR6bkY5SitpelR1UT09>

By Phone: 1 (312) 626 6799 ID 867 5713 3623, Passcode 205879

(If you need a live link to the Worship link, you can go to the homepage of our website at www.vccbhm.org with the passcode 205879 OR click on “Links to Zoom” then the Sunday Worship link.)

I look forward to seeing you again next Sunday!

Christ's and yours,
Pastor Eric

Valley Christian Church

First Sunday after Easter

April 11, 2021

PRELUDE

"He Lives"

*Margaret Cox
Pianist*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We announce to you what existed from the beginning.
People: The life was revealed.
Leader: This we have heard, seen with our eyes, and testify to you.
People: Eternal life with the Father was revealed to us.
Leader: Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.
People: May our joy be complete.

*Sarah Draper
Worship Leader*

(1 John 1:1-4, CEB)

HYMN OF PRAISE

"The Strife is O'er"

*The strife is o'er, the battle done
The victory of life is won
The song of triumph has begun, alleluia*

*The powers of death have done their worst
But Christ their legions has dispersed
Let shouts of holy joy outburst, alleluia*

*The three sad days are quickly sped
Christ rises glorious from the dead
All glory to our risen head, alleluia*

*Lord, by your wounds on Calvary
From death's dread sting your servants free
That we may live eternally, alleluia*

INVOCATION

*Sarah Draper
Worship Leader*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Melinda Gapen

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

*Sarah Draper
Worship Leader*

MESSAGE

"Thomas"

Rev. Melinda Gapen

HYMN

"Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us"

*Sing of one who walks beside us
And this day is living still
One who now is closer to us
Than the thoughts our hearts distill
Christ who once upon a hilltop
Raised against the power of sin died in love
As his own creatures crucified their God and Friend*

*We have walked with him as strangers
Through the journey of the day
And have told him of the violence
That has swept our hope away
He has offered words of comfort, of energy & of light
Did our hearts not blaze within us
As he broke the bread this night*

*Risen one stay with us once again the night is near
Dine with us and share your wisdom
Free our hearts from every fear in the calm
Of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn
If you hold us fast in friendship we will never be alone*

SHARING OUR OFFERING WITH GOD

Share your financial offering with the church by mail or bring it by the church office. Thank you for your love gifts.

*Sarah Draper
Worship Leader*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Sarah Draper
Worship Leader*

CALL TO COMMUNION

Rev. Melinda Gapen

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

*Alleluia, sing to Jesus, risen now to reign in love
Alleluia, praise the Savior with the multitudes above
There the songs of saints and martyrs
Thunder like a mighty flood
Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood*

*Alleluia, bread of heaven, be on earth our food and stay
Alleluia, here in the sinful flee to you from day to day
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer
Plead for me
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across
The crystal sea*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer

*Ted Stuckenschneider
Elder*

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when He said, "Take and eat, this is my body, broken for you. Take and drink, this is the cup of the covenant poured out for you."

As the Words of Institution are spoken, you are invited to partake in the bread and juice, or whatever is available to you.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Melinda Gapen

POSTLUDE

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*Margaret Cox
Pianist*

You are warmly invited to remain in our Zoom worship space for some online fellowship time following the postlude.

*How great
thou art!*

*When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation*

And take me home,

what joy shall fill my heart!

Then I shall bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim:

"My God, how great thou art!"

Then sings my soul,

my Savior God, to thee,

How great thou art!

How great thou art!