



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am excited to share with you the news of Valley Christian Church's 70th anniversary, and the five-week sermon series I have crafted to commemorate the occasion. In April 1951, members of Birmingham First Christian Church, with the church's blessing, planted Valley as the latest of several Disciples of Christ congregations in the Birmingham area. I will talk with you today about that genesis of Valley's public ministry, and I am delighted that we will also hear from my longest-serving predecessor, Rev. Dr. Jim Clifford, who will deliver a brief reflection and preside at communion as part of our worship!

Please use the 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 on Sunday!

Christ's and yours,
Pastor Eric

Valley Christian Church

Second Sunday after Easter

April 18, 2021

PRELUDE

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

*Margaret Cox
Pianist*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are commanded by the Father to live in truth.

People: Now, dear friends, we love each other.

Leader: It is not a new command.

People: It is one we have had from the beginning.

Leader: This is love: that we live according to His commands. This is the command that you have heard from the beginning.

People: We will live in love.

(2 John 4-6, CEB)

*Linda Reeves
Worship Leader*

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Morning Has Broken"

*Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass*

*Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's re-creation of the new day*

INVOCATION

*Linda Reeves
Worship Leader*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

God of the Word, by your words alone you created us and gave us life. Our words in comparison are so humble and meager, and yet we try to make them holy and sacred by devoting at least these words to prayer and worship of you. Hear our words in that spirit of humility and humbleness as we come to you in prayer. We pray to you for the people we have named aloud and the people and places that are in the silence of our souls, as we lift up to you those we have named aloud at this time...

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

*Rev. Dr. Jim Clifford
Former Valley Pastor*

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-4

*Linda Reeves
Worship Leader*

MESSAGE

"Genesis"

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

HYMN

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

*Praise my soul the God of heaven
Glad of heart your carols raise
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
Who like me should sing God's praise?
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Maker all our days*

*Praise to God for grace and favor
Shown to all who are oppressed
God shows steadfast love forever
Slow to chide and swift to bless
Alleluia, alleluia, glorious is God's faithfulness*

*Angels teach us adoration you who see God face to face
Sun and moon and all creation
Dwellers all in time and space
Alleluia, alleluia, praise with us the God of grace*

SHARING OUR OFFERING WITH GOD OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

*Linda Reeves
Worship Leader*

*Linda Reeves
Worship Leader*

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*All things bright & beautiful all creatures great & small
All things wise & wonderful, in love God made them all*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings
God made their glowing colors & made their tiny wings*

*All things bright & beautiful all creatures great & small
All things wise & wonderful, in love God made them all*

*The purple headed mountain, the river running by
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky*

*All things bright & beautiful all creatures great & small
All things wise & wonderful, in love God made them all*

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer

**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

May the God who was the Word and is always the Word send you forth with Words of love, and may the blessing of God be with you now and always, Amen.

POSTLUDE

"O Worship the King"

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

Rev. Dr. Jim Clifford

*Rev. John Gregory
Elder*

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

*Margaret Cox
Pianist*

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For how
great
is his
goodness,

and how
great
is his
beauty!