



Valley United Methodist Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 28, 2021

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

\* means please stand as you are able  
**bold words** are your part; regular print is the leader

Prelude

*Come, Savior of the Gentiles*  
*Magnificat*  
*Episode on "Veni, Emmanuel"*

Pachelbel  
Dandrieue  
arr. by Smith

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

Can one be homesick for something we've never known?

**We are homesick for a just world,  
for peace like rivers,  
for the end of suffering.**

Yes, we are homesick—

**for joy that is contagious,  
for nations that feel like neighbors,  
and for hospitals that run empty.**

We are homesick for the world God promises.

**We are homesick, but we are on our way.**

God is here. God is still creating.

**Let us worship Holy God.**



First Reading            1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem                    *Prepare Ye (The Way of the Lord)*                    Choir

Second Reading        Luke 21.25-36

<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message                    Homesick

Call to Prayer            *Wherever You Are* (on screen)

Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer      **Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Making Connections

Remember a time you've been homesick. How does "homesick" feel? What could you send as a text or letter or picture to someone you miss?
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Time of Offering      **Holy God, we are homesick.  
We long for the day that you described  
when swords will be beaten into plowshares,  
the lion will lie down with the lamb,  
and justice will roll down like waters.  
Until that holy day comes, take these gifts  
and use them to build that world here.  
We are hopeful. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (UMH 213)*

1-Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.

2-Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3-Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide;  
let us thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in us reveal.

4-Thy Holy Spirit lead us on  
until our glorious goal is won;  
eternal praise, eternal fame  
be offered, Savior, to thy name!

\*Benediction

Postlude

*Allegro, from Concerto No. 1*

Handel

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Calendar: Week of November 28 – December 5

<b>TODAY, November 28</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship In Person and LiveStream</b> <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> <b>No K-6 Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 30</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Special Charge Conference for Church Co. Members</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 1</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Prayer Group</b>
	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Sunday, December 5</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship In Person and LiveStream</b> <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages</b>

**A Consecration Sunday Thanks:** Thanks to so many of you who have offered your Commitment Cards with an estimate of your giving for 2022. When you communicate these plans, it helps our leaders make good decisions for the coming year. We know that not everyone participates in this way, and we welcome and appreciate all gifts, whether or not pledged. Your financial support—along with all the ways you offer your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness here at Valley—makes a difference both here at Valley and in all the places our ministries reach. If you haven't sent a pledge, it's not too late. Need a pledge card? Be in touch with us and we'll send one for you to complete. Thanks, all!

**Advent at Home Packets:** Pick up your **Advent packet**, with an Advent calendar and magnet, a daily devotional (if you want one), and a small treat. *Packets will be here for you to pick up after Sunday* if you miss out that day, and then we'll mail or deliver around 11/28 to those who don't get theirs.

**Thanksgiving at the Firepit:** **Thursday, November 25 at 6:00 p.m.** As our day of feasting and football winds down, let's gather in the dusk of evening for a short time of thanksgiving, in community with old and new friends. We'll light the fire pit (near the wooden cross) and lift up some thanksgiving prayers. Dress for the weather! What are you thankful for?

**BSA Charge Conference Update:** A charge conference has been set for Tuesday, November 30, 6:30-7:00 pm, to be held BY ZOOM, to address matters related to resolution of potential claims against churches in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy proceeding. This is a charge conference, so voting is limited to members of our Church Council.

**The Survey Is Coming on Little CAT Feet:** The finishing touches are happening on the CAT—the Congregational Assessment Tool that we'll send you next week. It will be a great way for you to help shape Valley's future, and give our leaders input that will shape the work our leaders do to get there. All current, active members and friends who are part of the Valley family will be encouraged to complete this anonymous, 98-question survey, from confirmation age up through our most experienced members. Stay tuned for details on how you can receive it!