



Valley United Methodist Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, September 17, 2023

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rally Day

**United Methodist Student Day**

*Thank you for joining in this worship service! We hope you will enter in the spirit of worship from wherever you are, and whenever you join. We'll follow this order of worship. You'll have to decide whether to stand (\*) and sit when invited! If you're joining in real time, you can add your comments and/or prayer requests in the comments on our livestream [at this link](#). Words in **bold print** are read together. Words from our United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), The Faith We Sing songbook (FWS) and other sources will appear on screen. We're so glad you're here!*

Gathering Music	<i>Chaconne in Ancient Style</i>	Powell
	<i>Andante</i>	Quantz
	<i>Prelude, Fugue, and Finale on "Sine Nomine"</i>	Saxton

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

Tina Turner lyrics & COLOSSIANS 3.12-15

What's love got to do with it?

**As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**

What's love, but a second-hand emotion?

**Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you.**

What's love got to do with it?

**Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken?

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.**

\*Opening Hymn

*O Spirit of the Living God* (UMH 539)

1-O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine,  
descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine.  
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;  
till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

2-Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free  
from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee.  
Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,  
to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious common weal.

3-Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,  
the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;  
till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,  
and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

4-So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save;  
so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave;  
and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole;  
till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

\*Opening Prayer

**O God, our life with you  
takes us into uncomfortable situations.  
Help us stay close enough to you  
that we may glimpse the glory of your kingdom,  
where love is genuine,  
where evil is forsaken,  
where mutual affection abides,  
and hospitality is shown to strangers,  
where all are made one. Amen.**

*Abingdon Worship Annual 2023, 165, adapted*

\*Peace

The peace of Christ is with you.  
**And also with you.**

Time with Children

Presentation of Third Grade Bible

We receive these Bibles with our hands, our hearts, and our minds.

Thank you.

We will read and study the Bible together.

**We rejoice in this step in your journey with God.**

**We pray God will guide you, your family, and us**

**as you use this Holy Bible in your home,**

**in your church school classes, and in our worship.**

**We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word.**

The Word of God is a lamp to our feet,

and a light to our path.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

*Oh, I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me*

The Back Row

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18.21-35

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

What Love Looks Like: The Peace

Making Connections

Briefly describe a time when you have forgiven or been forgiven.  
What made forgiveness possible? Are there times when it has not been?  
Could forgiving that person, even unearned, bring *you* peace?

Call to Prayer

*Bind Us Together* (FWS 2226), refrain

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together  
with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,  
bind us together in love.

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.**

Time of Offering

Offertory

*Minuet*

J.S. Bach

Offering Prayer

**Loving God, faithful and gracious forever,  
You love us more than we love ourselves.  
You believe in us more than we believe in ourselves.  
You call us to walk with Christ, and with one another,  
and be more than we ever thought possible.  
Take our gifts. Receive our thanks. Accept our praise:  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Worship & Song Leader's Edition* (2011), 113, adapted

\*Closing Song

*Let There Be Peace on Earth* (UMH 431)

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

\*Benediction

The Maker’s blessing be yours  
 on your road, on your journey  
 guiding you, cherishing you.

**The Son’s blessing be yours  
 wine and water, bread and stories  
 feeding you, challenging you.**

The Spirit’s blessing be yours  
 wind and fire, joy and wisdom  
 comforting you, disturbing you.

**The angels’ blessing be yours  
 on your house, on your living  
 guarding you, encouraging you.**

**ALL: God’s blessing be ours;  
 The blessing of pilgrims  
 all the nights and days  
 of our journey home. Amen.**

*The Upper Room Worshipbook, via Transforming Center, “Leaving Service”*

Postlude

*O That Will Be Joyful!*

Merrell

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., Sept. 17	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Person and Livestream
	10:00 a.m.	Rally Day Sundaes during Fellowship Time
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Celebration at the Firepit
	3:00 p.m.	AMOS Delegate Assembly @ Valley UMC
Tues., Sept. 19	10:30 a.m.	Equity and Justice
	5:00 p.m.	Mission Team
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wed., Sept. 20	3:00 p.m.	Prayer Group
	6:00 p.m.	Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Valley Fall Conversation
Thurs., Sept. 21	3:00 p.m.	Valley Fall Conversation
Sat., Sept. 23	8:00 a.m.	Men’s Group
	9:00 a.m.	Work Day
Sun., Sept. 24	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Person and Livestream
	5:00 p.m.	Game Night with Pizza

**Serving us today:** Lee Schott, Pastor; Karen Hutzell, Organist; Joyce Templeman, Pianist; Nathan and Lynne Henn, Ushers; Kim Tyrrell and Carolyn Lancaster, Nursery Attendants; Christian Education, Fellowship; Nathan and Johnathan Henn, Tech Team; Jaci Vega, Livestream Greeter.

**Rally Sundae! TODAY:** Join us for “Rally Sundaes” for everyone in the fellowship hall after worship. Then we will kick off our Sunday School year at a 10:30 a.m. celebration at the fire pit. Help us celebrate Sunday School at Valley UMC!

**October Valley View Deadline: Tuesday, September 19:** Please submit your articles, photos and calendar items to [office@valleyumc.org](mailto:office@valleyumc.org) for the October newsletter.

**Valley's Fall Conversations.** As promised at our congregational meeting last month, we have scheduled times for conversations with Valley folks about the financial challenges and staffing questions we are considering as we move toward 2024. The next conversations will be **Wednesday, September 20** at 7:00 p.m. and **Thursday, September 21** at 3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, for no more than an hour. (Find future dates in Valley Views!) Want to join on Zoom? Just let us know ahead of time so we can set that up.

**Men's Group:** Valley Men's Group will meet on **Saturday, September 23** at 8:00 a.m. for Faith and Fellowship.

**September Work Day:** **Saturday, September 23** at 9:00 a.m. Come help out with some clean up projects in and around the church.

**Pizza and Game Night:** Game Night and Pizza is back again on **Sunday, September 24 at 5:00 p.m.** after a summer of other activities. Bring your favorite games to play with your Valley UMC friends. Please sign up on Sunday morning or contact the church office if you plan to attend.

**September Giving Tree:** Reggie's Sleepout

**WDM Human Services Need of the Month:** Diapers and Wipes