

Valley Christian Church

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Almighty God, on this day open the doors of our lives and enter in.
People: Come in and open our minds to the truth of your care.
Leader: Come in and open our hearts to the gentle power of your love.
People: Come in and open our lips to share stories of faith.
Leader: Come in and open our hands to create beauty, to do justice and to show kindness.
People: Come in to open our souls to the breath of your spirit.
All: Come in and open our mouths as we praise your name in worship.

HYMN

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

*Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!*

INVOCATION

God of springtime, God of sunlight and beauty, God of mercy and compassion, God of hope and kindness, we

call on you today to meet us in worship in our homes. Embrace us in your love and allow us to see just a little of what you see. Grant us open eyes, open ears, open mouths and open hearts to hear your word and obey. Amen

John 10:1-10

SCRIPTURE

MEDITATION

*“I am the Door of the Sheep”
See Insert for Meditation*

HYMN

*“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.*

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

God, our faith and our trust are in you. We have nowhere else to turn. Be for us an anchor in the chaos of the Coronavirus. Hold out your hand so that we can find you and know which way to turn next.

Oh God, how could this terrible virus happen to us and the entire world? Grant us the faith in you in the midst of it.

And in the midst of all that is before us, the unknown, come and give us peace. When we are frightened, hold us tight. When we are depressed, reassure us. When we are angry at all the terrible things that are happening, soothe our spirits. For when we put our trust in you, you will not lead us astray.

Hear our prayers, and grant our loved ones, friends, church members and all your children of the world safety. Amen.

CALL TO COMMUNION

As we come to communion in the comfort of our home, may the bread which is broken bring life to us. May the holy cup, poured out for all, be our salvation.

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

"Here at Thy Table Lord"

*Here at Thy table, Lord, this sacred hour,
O let us feel Thee near, in loving power,
Calling our thoughts away from self and sin
As to Thy banquet hall we enter in.*

*Sit at the feast, dear Lord, break Thou the bread;
Fill Thou the cup that brings life to the dead;
That we may find in Thee pardon and peace,
And from all bondage win a full release.*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Most gracious God, having called us to be your people, you feed us with the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We thank you for the sacrament of communion. We are grateful for the mercy it communicates, the fellowship it brings to us as a church, and the promise of eternal life. Amen.

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

On the night He was betrayed Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body that is broken for you. Take, eat and do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it often in remembrance of me"

**SHARING OUR
OFFERING
WITH GOD**


Share your church offering with the church by mail.
Thank you for your love gifts.

**OFFERTORY
PRAYER**

O God, you have been so good to us; and now we offer a portion of your goodness back to you. We pray that you would bless our gifts so that they might become gifts to others both here and around the world. In Jesus name, Amen.

BENEDICTION

We have encountered God in worship. We have heard the gospel. Go now and celebrate the Good News. Live the Good News. Share the Good News. Amen



Turn
unto the
LORD
your God:
for he is gracious
and merciful. JOEL 2:13

MEDITATION
Sunday, April 26, 2020

“I am the Door”

“I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture!”

In this scripture Jesus is sharing that He is the door of the sheepfold. If we are to understand the image of the door, we must also understand the design of a sheepfold in the day of Jesus.

The sheepfold was generally a walled enclosure without a roof. At one end was an opening large enough to allow one sheep to pass through at a time.

The sheepfold had no wooden door, such as we use in our homes today. The entrance was open.

When the sheep were inside the sheepfold, the shepherd sat or slept in the doorway. In a very real sense, he was the door. Anyone who wanted to go in our out had to pass by him. He controlled the door of the sheepfold.

Therefore, if the sheep represents God’s people, and the sheepfold represents God’s church, you see quickly that Christ was saying that He is the door. For the people of God, Christ was affirming that He is the entrance by which an individual becomes a part of God’s people and joins the flock of Almighty God.

Now all sheepfolds had only one door. The whole purpose of the sheepfold would have been defeated if there had been two doors. The shepherd could not be in two places at the same time. With one door and one shepherd, the sheep were safe. When Jesus said, “I am the door”, He was affirming that He is the way to God and the entrance into the church.

(over)

What Christ said in the words “I am the door”, He practiced more completely in His death.

Jesus was crucified between two thieves. One of the thieves recognized Him as Lord. He said, “Lord, remember me when you enter your Kingdom.”

To this humble expression of faith Jesus responded with the assurance of pardon. “Today,” said Jesus, “you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus did not say, “You have been a sinner, you must suffer in darkness.” Instead, Christ gave complete forgiveness and immediate acceptance. “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

We are blessed like the thief to have a Savior who forgives us and is the door to God. He calls us to come to God through Him, regardless of what we are or have been. He calls us to come in faith to a new life.

Today the door is open! “I am the door,” says Jesus Christ. “If anyone enters by me, he or she will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” And what is pasture but the life abundant? The wide mercy, the ever open door is Christ our Lord and Savior. He is the entrance to the sheepfold of security and exit to the pastures where the grass is green and where the streams of living waters flow and where we find abundant life.

To all of this we can affirm His love as the door to life in the old gospel hymn, “Just As I Am”.

Just as I am thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve, Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Christ is the door! He calls you and me to come on in! Amen!

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