



# Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Today the word of the Lord's Prayer is: "Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil". These words have caused much confusion. What did Jesus mean by asking God not to lead us into temptation? Today we will try to discover some answers to that question.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers and links are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am. You can join in one of two ways:

**By telephone (audio only)**

1 (312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 867 5713 3623

**By video with computer, tablet, or smartphone – click the link below**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623>

I heard that Eric and Sarah led you in a great worship service last Sunday. I look forward to being with you again. You are special to me.

God Bless You, Edd

# Valley Christian Church

## Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2020

### PRELUDE

*Rock Medley*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today Lord we remember the words in your prayer of delivering us from evil. Therefore, into your hands we commit the anxieties that distract our minds, rob our sleep and hurt our relationships.

People: Into your hands, we commit all our anxieties.  
Leader: Into your hands we commit our inappropriate desires for possessions and power.

People: Into your hands we commit our greed.

Leader: Into your hands, we commit the sufferings of our bodies, our minds, and our souls.

People: Into your hands, we commit our suffering.

Leader: Into your hands, we commit our lives. Grant us pardon and peace that we may live as your people, die in your grace, and rise in your likeness.

People Come now and touch us Lord with your hands, and make us whole.

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*"He Touched Me"*

*Shackled by a heavy burden,  
'Neath a load of guilt and shame.  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
And now I am no longer the same.  
He touched me, O He touched me,  
And O the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened and now I know,  
He touched me and made me whole.*

### INVOCATION

Almighty God, you formed us out of the dust of the ground and breathed into us the breath of life. May we once again yield to the workings of your loving skilled hands, being molded and formed into instruments of your Word. In Christ's name we pay. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 4:1-11  
Matthew 6:9-13*

### MEDITATION

"And Lead Us Not Into Temptation,  
But Deliver Us From Evil"  
See Insert for Meditation

### HYMN

*"He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought!"*

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.  
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
By His own hand He leadeth me  
His faithful foll'wer I would be,  
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### HYMN

*"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"*

*O beautiful for spacious skies  
For amber waves of grain  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above thy fruited plain  
America, America  
God shed his grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea*

*O beautiful for heroes proved  
In liberating strife  
Who more than self their country loved  
And mercy more than life  
America, America  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, for this great country, for its north and south, east and west, for its mountains and rivers, trees and forests. We give you thanks for the joy we have as citizens of this great nation. We give you thanks for the freedom that was won by many on our behalf, a freedom we so often take for granted. We give you thanks for the founders of this nation who laid the foundations for a system wherein all could eventually be given basic rights.

We pray on this Independence Sunday that you would help freedom to be a reality to all people. Enable all people to be able to enjoy the basic necessities of housing and food, care and community. We pray for liberty and justice for all.

We are especially grateful for the gift of your Son, who won independence from sin for all people. It is through His life, death and resurrection that we are fully set free from sin, slavery and the regrets of the past. Amen.

Together this morning we touch the bread of life and drink the cup of joy.

#### **CALL TO COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

*"In This Very Room"*

*In this very room*

*there's quite enough love for one like me,*

*And in this very room*

*there's quite enough joy for one like me,*

*And there's quite enough hope*

*and quite enough power to chase away any gloom,*

*For Jesus, Lord Jesus ... Is in this very room.*

#### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

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

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, "Take eat and take drink."

#### **SHARING OUR OFFERING WITH GOD**

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

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

O Lord, receive now these gifts and use them to extend your work. May the homeless be housed, and the hungry fed, and those who are alone find friendship and family with us. Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

Keep in mind always that the ultimate master you are serving is Christ. Be faithful in all your work. Go in His grace and in His name. Amen.

—PSALM 121:2 (NIV)—

My help comes from the

*Lord,*  
the Maker of  
*Heaven & Earth.*

## MEDITATION

Sunday, July 5, 2020

“And, Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil.”

“Lead us not into temptation” has probably been misunderstood more than any line in the Lord’s Prayer. What could those words of Jesus mean?

We all understand that it is God’s nature to feed us daily bread and forgive us of our sins. But is it God’s nature to lead us into temptation? Why do we have to ask God to stop from doing something we know he would never do in the first place? The answer to these questions is in the word for “temptation”. In the New Testament temptation is a Greek word that basically means “a test” or “a trial”. Therefore we must always remember that while God will never tempt us, he may sometimes test us in order to strengthen our faith. The writer James wrote: “Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4). So God does test us, but he does not seek to tempt us into sin.

We can often confuse God’s tests with temptations because our hearts often use difficult circumstances as an excuse for sinful behavior. A test is a difficult circumstance brought into our lives by God. A temptation is an invitation to sin. God certainly tests us, but he never tempts us. We must never allow God’s test to lead us to temptation.

There are some reasons why testing, even though we view it as negative, can have positive results in our lives. First, testing from God can reveal what is in our hearts. In the Old Testament when Abraham went up the mountain to sacrifice his son Isaac, he was willing to do what God had told him to do. Now that is a real test to sacrifice your son. He could have given in to the temptation of saying, “I love my son and I don’t care what God said, I am not taking his life!” But Abraham obeyed God and was ready to take

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Isaac’s life. But God spared Abraham’s son and did not kill him. And God said to Abraham, “You always said you loved me, but now I know you love me.” The test of God for Abraham truly revealed what was in Abraham’s heart. May our testing from God lead us beyond a shadow of a doubt to the belief that God loves us and we love Him.

Second, when the testing comes we must lean on God for strength. We must trust God that the testing will make us stronger.

A group of mountain hikers came across an old woodsman with an axe on his shoulder, “Where are you going?”, they asked him “I am headed up the mountain to get some wood to repair my cabin”, he said. “But why are you going up the mountain?”, they asked, “There are plenty of trees all around here”. “I know”, he said, “But I need strong timber and it grows only on the highest elevations, where the trees are tested and toughened by the weather around them. The higher up you go, the stronger the timber grows.” And that is what God desires for us. Through the winds of test and trial we grow strong and live our lives on a higher level. We don’t give in to the temptation of the evil one. Instead we become strong to serve God and each other.

Finally, there is the rest of the petition in the prayer; “Deliver us from evil”. This phrase can be understood from the following story. A father and son were walking down an icy street. The father cautions the boy to be careful, but the boy is excited and runs down the icy street. He slips on the ice and down he goes. The father helps him to his feet. The boy apologizes for not obeying and disregarding the warning. Then the boy tightly holds his father’s hand. He says, “Daddy keep me from slippery spots. Don’t let me fall again.”

So we say to our heavenly Father, “Keep me from the slippery spots.” We place our hand in his hand and say, “Please Father, keep me away from evil. Amen.”