



# The Valley Voice

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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## COFFEE AND A STORY

Church, you do not need me to tell you how uncommon the first two weeks of 2021 have already been, so I won't.

You do not need me to tell you that we follow, worship, and claim as the one true Son of God a Messiah who preached against senseless violence, so I won't.

What I will tell you is that what 2021 has already thrown at us is a test, though not necessarily one sent by God. It is a test of our own making, a test constructed over the course of many months and years, to see just how committed we are to the ideals of big-t Truth, justice, equality, and democracy.

Not all trials are God-made, or God-ordained. We by our own choices are very capable of creating trials for ourselves, and we by our own choices hold the keys to passing such trials. In this case, I firmly believe that our successful passage through this trial relies upon our commitment to one another's human rights, including and especially the right to vote, and our commitment to uprooting and taking apart prejudices in ourselves and in those around us—including and especially racism.

We can, and must, rely on God for the strength to keep this commitment. Prejudices such as racism do not exist because God made them so, they exist because we made them so. God is infinitely more enduring than our own human creations, and so we should look to God as our first example of being bigger and better than the bigotries we as humans have built and subscribed to over the centuries. If we rely on God to give us the strength to do what is right, and just, and equitable, we can have faith in God to so strengthen us for that great, soul-sized task.

Finally, as covid-19 vaccinations become more widely available, I strongly encourage everyone to ask your doctors about getting vaccinated. Not only do the vaccines represent our best possible chance by far of finally bringing this pandemic to an end, but they also represent our fastest path towards at long last safely resuming in-person Sunday worship together. In the meanwhile, please continue to wear masks and stay safe—I have likened this in conversations with y'all with being towards the end of a marathon and being utterly exhausted, but still needing to finish the race. We have achieved so much in keeping one another safe these past ten months, but we still need to make it to the finish line of this together. Then, God willing, we will celebrate and rejoice that we emerged as an intact family. Christ's and yours, Pastor Eric

## CONTRIBUTIONS SPECIAL 2020

Here are the donation totals for the last 3 special offerings of 2020: Reconciliation \$300

Thanksgiving \$260 Christmas \$480

Thanks to all who gave so generously! Cindy Neville



**Ginny Guindon's Amaryllis with the cross made by her Father.**

The Amaryllis Plant is also known as Belladonna and is from a rocky area in the Western Cape of South Africa. The Amaryllis is known as the Queen of wintering flowering plants; their size and color are from a delicate pink to a deep red with blooms as large as a dinner plate. The Amaryllis is from the Greek meaning to Sparkle. This might be a good word for Valley this year – To Sparkle in 2021.

## LIFE IN THE VALLEY

- Dear Valley CC, Thank you so much for remembering me at Christmas. I look forward to a promising new year and being able to provide choral music to the service. Sincerely, Mary Ellen Caughran, Choir Director
- Little James Devine was taken briefly back to the hospital for his bilirubin count but is home now. We are still continuing to do the meal train for Tim and Whitney Devine, if you would like to assist please call Carrie Atcheson or Katelyn Clark.
- Margaret Cox has asked for prayers for a family friend, Matt who traveled to the Congo and may have contracted COVID.
- Please call or email the office with your prayer concerns, joys or reports to include in "Life In The Valley".

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