



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am happy to share with you this Sunday the fourth installment of my Lenten sermon series, “We Were There: Lenten Edition,” developed in consultation with Lola Kiser. We adapted the first-person format of Valley’s lovely Advent devotional book, “We Were There,” picking out fourteen eyewitnesses to Holy Week. Some of their voices will be in our Holy Week devotional, and some are in this sermon series. Today’s voice is that of Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, who was one of Jesus’s followers who bravely remained as an eyewitness to His crucifixion after all of His male disciples had fled at Gethsemane.

Please use following phone numbers and links between 10:15am and 10:30am.
You can join in one of two ways:

By computer, smart phone or tablet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623?pwd=OTFUQWJvU21MMmR6bkY5SitpelR1UT09>

By Phone: 1 (312) 626 6799 ID 867 5713 3623, Passcode 205879

(If you need a live link to the Worship link, you can go to the homepage of our website at www.vccbhm.org with the passcode 205879 OR click on “Links to Zoom” then the Sunday Worship link.)

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Christ’s and yours,
Pastor Eric

Valley Christian Church

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

PRELUDE

"The Old Rugged Cross"

Margaret Cox
Pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: With endurance, let us run the race that is laid out in front of us.

Clarence Sellers
Worship Leader

People: For we have a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us.

Leader: Throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up.

People: We fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignored the shame, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

(Hebrews 12:1-2, CEB)

HYMN OF PRAISE

"In Suffering Love"

*In suffering love the thread of life
Is woven through our care
For God is with us, not alone
Our pain and toil we bear*

*There is a rock, a place secure
Within the storm's cold blast
Concealed within the suffering night
God's covenant holds fast*

*In suffering love our God comes now
Hope's vision born in gloom
With tears and laughter shared and blessed
The desert yet shall bloom*

INVOCATION

Clarence Sellers
Worship Leader

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Suffering yet sovereign God, your creative and life-giving power is so great, and yet you surrendered that power on the cross so that we might be saved and redeemed. We gather around that cross in prayer, bringing to you in your suffering our suffering, and in your new life the joys of our lives. We share them each with you as we pray to you for the people we have named aloud and the people who are in the silence of our souls, as we lift up to you the ones who we have named aloud at this time...

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Lord is My Shepherd," S. Liddle

Rev. Jan Watts

SCRIPTURE

Mark 15:40-41, 47

Clarence Sellers
Worship Leader

MESSAGE

"Mary, the Mother of James and Joseph/Joses"

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

HYMN

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

*O sacred head now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns thine only crown
How pale thou art with anguish
With sore abuse and scorn
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn*

*What thou O Christ has suffered was all for sinners
gain
Mine mine is the transgression but thy the deadly pain
Lo, here I fall, my Savior, 'Tis I deserve thy place
Look on me with thy favor and keep me in thy grace*

SHARING OUR OFFERING WITH GOD

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

Clarence Sellers
Worship Leader

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Clarence Sellers
Worship Leader

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

May we remember the faithfulness of Christ's disciples—including those not documented as present at the Last Supper, but still present with Him at the end.

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

**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*

*Come then, O holy Christ, feed us we pray
Touch with thy pierced hand each common day
Making this earthly life full of thy grace
Till in the home of heaven we find all our place*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer

*Ed Guindon
Elder*

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when He said, "Take and eat, this is my body, broken for you. Take and drink, this is the cup of the covenant poured out for you."

As the Words of Institution are spoken, you are invited to partake in the bread and juice, or whatever is available to you.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord who brings you to the foot of the cross send you forth from it to proclaim the innocence and divinity of the Son who saved you. May the blessing of the Lord be with you on this day and all days. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

POSTLUDE

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

*Margaret Cox
Pianist*

You are warmly invited to remain in our Zoom worship space for some online fellowship time following the postlude.

This is the **day**
which the **Lord** hath **made;**

