



# Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am excited to share the third installment of the five-week sermon series I have crafted to commemorate the occasion of Valley's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In April 1951, members of Birmingham First Christian Church, with the church's blessing, planted Valley as the latest of a few Disciples of Christ congregations in the Birmingham area. Today, we will read the Lord's Prayer and talk about being indebted to both our past and our future, and we will also hear from a familiar voice, Rev. John Gregory, who served as Valley's fourth minister from 1975 to 1982 and has remained a beloved Valley member for many years since.

Please use the 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](http://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

## Fourth Sunday after Easter

May 2, 2021

### PRELUDE

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

Margaret Cox  
Pianist

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We were buried with Christ thru our baptism.  
People: And we were raised with Him through faith in the power of the God who raised Him from the dead.  
Leader: When we were dead because of the things we had done wrong,  
People: God made us alive with Christ and forgave all the things we have done wrong.  
Leader: He destroyed the record of the debt we owe.  
People: He canceled it by nailing it to the cross.

Sara Simon  
Worship Leader

(Colossians 2:12-15, CEB)

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

*Praise to the Lord, the almighty who rules all creation  
O my soul worship the wellspring of health & salvation  
All ye who hear, now to God's temple draw near  
Join me in glad adoration*

*Praise to the Lord  
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee  
Surely God's goodness & mercy here daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
Who with great love doth befriend thee*

*Praise to the Lord, O let all of earth's people and races  
All have life & breath, give thanks for manifold graces  
Let the Amen sound from God's people again  
Gladly forever sing praises*

### INVOCATION

Sara Simon  
Worship Leader

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Saving and liberating God, we know that in you our ultimate freedom from sin can be found. We have not achieved it on our own, but rely upon you and the redemptive resurrection of your son Jesus Christ. As we seek new life in you, may you hear our prayers for new life in our world, for your children and creation. We pray to you for the people we have named aloud and the people and places that are in the silence of our souls, as we lift up to you those we have named aloud today...

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

### ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

Rev. John Gregory  
Former Valley Pastor

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:7-15

Sara Simon  
Worship Leader

### MESSAGE

"Debtors to Past and Future"

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

### HYMN

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary  
Savior divine, now hear me while I pray, take all  
My guilt away; oh let me from this day be wholly thine*

*May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart  
My zeal inspire as thou hast died for me, oh may my  
Love to thee pure warm and changeless be a living fire*

*While life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread  
Be thou my guide, bid darkness turn to day  
Wipe sorrow's tears away  
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside*

### 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.

Sara Simon  
Worship Leader

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sara Simon  
Worship Leader

**CALL TO  
COMMUNION**

*Rev. John Gregory*

**COMMUNION  
HYMN**

*"Come and Find the Quiet Center"*

*Come & find the quiet center in the crowded life we live  
Find the room for hope to enter  
Find the frame where we are freed  
Clear the chaos and the clutter that we can see  
All the things that really matter be at peace & simply be*

*In the spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain  
Let our lives & fears unravel, celebrate a space we gain  
There's a place for deepest dreaming  
There's a time for heart to care  
In the spirit's lively scheming  
There is always room to spare*

**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."

*Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson*

*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 God who has ransomed you from sin and freed you from the burden of the debts that sin incurs send you forth to help set free others, and may the blessing of that God be with you now and always, amen.

*Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson*

**POSTLUDE**

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty!"*

*Margaret Cox  
Pianist*

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

