



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am excited to share the fourth installment of the five-week sermon series I have crafted to commemorate the occasion of Valley's 70th 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 hear the beginning of Luke's Gospel—his note to his reader, Theophilus, and consider what it means to offer someone an account of our church's life and story. We will be combining this with a brief observance of Mother's Day as our call to communion, and I look forward to sharing both these worship messages with you this Sunday!

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 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 after Easter

May 9, 2021

PRELUDE

"God Give Us Christian Homes"

Margaret Cox
Pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The first scroll concerns everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning.

People: Right up to the day He was taken to heaven.

Leader: Before He was taken up, He worked in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: By instructing the disciples He had chosen.

Leader: After His suffering, He showed them He was alive with many convincing proofs.

People: He appeared to them and spoke to them of God's kingdom.

Andrea Clark
Worship Leader

(Acts 1:1-3, CEB)

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Gather Us In"

*Here in this place new light is streaming
Shadows of doubt are vanished away
See in this place our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, our spirits in flame
Call to us now, and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name*

*Here we receive new life in the waters
Here we receive the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread of new birth
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true*

INVOCATION

Andrea Clark
Worship Leader

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal and infinite God, we know we cannot narrow you down or reduce you down to our own dimensions, yet we confess that this does not always stop us from trying. Help us to more fully understand you, in all that you are and all you have been to us, that we might love you and follow you even more fully. In these moments of prayer, we seek you in your fullness, and 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

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:1-4

Andrea Clark
Worship Leader

MESSAGE

"The Profile"

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord
We are his new creation by water and the Word
From heaven he came & sought us to be his holy bride
With his own blood he bought us & for our life he died*

*Called forth from every nation yet one o'er all the earth
Our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth
One holy name professing and at one table fed
To one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led*

*We now on earth have union with God the Three in One
And mystic sweet communion w/ ones whose rest is won
Oh happy ones, and holy, God give us grace that we
Like them, the meek & lowly, on high may dwell w/ thee*

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.

Andrea Clark
Worship Leader

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Andrea Clark
Worship Leader

CALL TO COMMUNION

On this Mother's Day, may we take this table as our example, a table expanding to include so many. May we include each of us in our experiences of motherhood.

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

"Pass it On"

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love once you've
experienced it
You spread the love to everyone you want to pass it on*

*What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are
budding
The birds begin to sing the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love once you've
experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass
it on*

*I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found
On God you can depend, it matters not where you're
bound
I'll shout it from the mountaintop, I want the world to
know
The Lord of love has come to me I want to pass it on*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer

*Clarence Sellers
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 nurtured you and seen you grow send you forth to help others grow in faith, and may the blessing of that God be with you now & always, amen.

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

POSTLUDE

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

*Margaret Cox
Pianist*

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

