



# Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am excited to share the final 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. This Sunday, we will finish the series with the Bible passage that gave the series its name: when Jesus instructs us to forgive others "seventy times seven" which literally adds up to 490 but really means forgiving people in their totality. We are celebrating the totality of Valley—our past \*and\* our future—and I look forward to finishing that celebration with you.

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

## Sixth Sunday after Easter

May 16, 2021

### PRELUDE

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

Margaret Cox  
Pianist

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All things were created by God, both in the heavens and on the earth  
People: All things were created through God and for God  
Leader: God existed before all things, and all things are held together through Him  
People: Because all the fullness of God was pleased to live in Him  
Leader: God reconciled all things to Himself thru Him  
People: God brought peace thru the blood of the cross

John Gregory  
Worship Leader

(Colossians 1:16-20, CEB)

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Be Thou My Vision"*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
Thou art my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence, thy light*

*Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won  
Thou in me dwelling, and I in thee one*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance now and always  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art*

*Great God of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all*

### INVOCATION

John Gregory  
Worship Leader

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

Merciful and forgiving God, we confess to you that we do not live as we ought. We are selfish, envious, deceitful—all the things you commanded us not to be, we have been. Yet in knowing our own sins, we can then seek reconciliation with you and with each other, that we might live in the fullness and totality of you and your love. We seek that love today as 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

Matthew 18:18-22

John Gregory  
Worship Leader

#### MESSAGE

"Seventy Times Seven"

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

#### HYMN

*"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"*

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
Of our life's wild restless sea  
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth  
Saying, "Christian, follow me"*

*Jesus calls us from the worship  
Of the vain world's golden store  
From each idol that would keep us  
Saying, "Christian, love me more"*

*In our joys and in our sorrows  
Days of toil and hours of ease  
Still he calls in cares and pleasures  
"Christian, love me more than these"*

*Jesus calls us, by thy mercies  
Savior may we hear thy call  
Give our hearts to thine obedience  
Serve and love thee best of all*



**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.

*John Gregory  
Worship Leader*

**OFFERTORY  
PRAYER**

*John Gregory  
Worship Leader*

**CALL TO  
COMMUNION**

As we remember how infinitely God calls us to forgive, we know that it is because God has forgiven us by the body and blood of our Savior. *Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson*

**COMMUNION  
HYMN**

*“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”*

*Be known to us in breaking bread  
But do not then depart  
Savior, abide in us  
And spread thy table in our heart*

*There sup with us in love divine  
Thy body and thy blood  
That living bread, that heavenly wine  
Be our immortal food*

**COMMUNION  
PRAYER**

Conclude by praying together the Lord’s Prayer *Katelyn Clark  
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 forgiven you in your totality, loves you in your totality, created you in your totality, send you forth to share that total love. May the blessing of that God be with you now and always, amen. *Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson*

**POSTLUDE**

*“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”* *Margaret Cox  
Pianist*

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

