



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Greetings from the top of “Old Smoky”. The Spencer family is spending time together in some mountain cabins next to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

Today you are blessed to have John Gregory share the morning message along with Andrea Clark as Worship Leader. May God bless them as they lift up the Word of God.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers and links are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am. You can join in one of two ways:

By telephone (audio only)

1 (312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 867 5713 3623

By video with computer, tablet, or smartphone – click the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623>

(if you need a live link you can go to the homepage of our website at www.vccbhm.org)

I look forward to being with you next Sunday as we begin our series of sermons on biblical characters. We will begin with a popular Old Testament story of David and Goliath. You are special to me. God Bless You, Edd

Valley Christian Church

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 19, 2020

PRELUDE

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

CALL TO WORSHIP

We will praise you, Lord, with all our hearts,
WE WILL TELL ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS
YOU HAVE DONE.

We will sing with joy because of you.
WE WILL SING PRAISE TO YOU, MOST HIGH!

The Lord is God forever,
HE HAS SET HIS THRONE FOR JUDGMENT.

He rules the world with righteousness;
HE JUDGES THE PEOPLE WITH JUSTICE.

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
A PLACE OF SAFETY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

Those who know you, Lord, will trust you;
YOU DO NOT ABANDON ANYONE WHO
COMES TO YOU.

Sing praise to the Lord, who rules in Birmingham!
TELL EVERYONE WHAT HE HAS DONE!

Psalms 9

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,

God of glory, Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,

Opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive our fear and doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving,

ever blessing, ever blest,

well-spring of the joy of living,

ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our brother,

all who live in love are thine;

teach us how to love each other,

lift us to the joy divine.

INVOCATION

Dear God, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit to make us holy. Through them we come to know the mystery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 13:1-6

Matthew 20:29-34

MEDITATION

"Living Through These Times"
Prayer Reflection Witness

HYMN

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

In Christ there is no east or west,

In him no south or north,

But one community of love

Throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples in the faith,

Whate'er your race may be!

all children of the living God

Are surely kin to me.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dear God, Creator; and Jesus, Redeemer, we give thanks for the morning with its light and air and even warmth. We gather in this sanctuary, not of bricks and mortar, but of hearts and souls, celebrating the oneness of your loving spirit.

We ask for oneness of spirit in the community, state and nation, that we may find refuge from this virus. We pray for oneness of people so we may reflect and share the love you have for all people – "red and yellow, black and white....". Guide us by your message of love, rather than our message of prejudice and self-righteousness.

We pray for the people named and thought of in our worship today. Move within us and around us, so we may have courage to speak up and share the Gospel. May Jesus be on our tongue and in our actions in loving words and ways toward everyone. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

Lord God of Power and Might, pour out your Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and the blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
for when humbly in your name,
two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Touch we now thy garment's hem

As disciples used to gather

In the name of Christ to sup,

Then with thanks to God the giver

Break the bread and bless the cup,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

So now bind our friendship up.

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion

(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

Eat this bread and drink from this cup.

**SHARING OUR
OFFERING
WITH GOD**

As usual, but always new, we have opportunities to share of our blessings. In our tithes and offerings, we support the ministry of Jesus and his Disciples (us). Bring or mail your offerings to the church.

**OFFERTORY
PRAYER**

Father, we give thanks for the blessings you share upon us. When we give our offerings, May they be used in your name as acts of grace, mercy, and celebration of life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and within you always. Amen.

I can do all things
through Christ

which strengtheneth me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



Lockdown

By Brother Richard of Ireland

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise,
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet.
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their
neighbors in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

This poem may seem dated with our rise of Covid19 cases. It is helpful to be reminded of ways to cope with the ongoing epidemic. Perhaps we were a bit impatient with the rush to be “normal”. And then there was the jarring call to our relationship to people of color. God be with us.