



Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am happy to share with you the next week of our autumn sermon series “The Whatabouts: Responding to Questions with Faithfulness.” Today, on All Saints Day and before Election Day, we consider the question “What about the partisanship?” and how sainthood doesn’t rely upon party.

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

All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2020

PRELUDE

"For All the Saints"

Margaret Cox
Pianist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

People: If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.

Leader: So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

People: For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

(Romans 14:7-9, NRSV)

Ted Stuckenschneider
Worship Leader

HYMN OF PRAISE

"My Life Flows On"

*My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation
I hear the near though far off hymn
That hails a new creation*

(Refrain)

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It finds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing?
(Refrain)*

*What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth
What though the darkness gather 'round?
Songs in the night he giveth
(Refrain)*

INVOCATION

Dear God, open our hearts and minds as we worship together this morning. As we face fears and doubts in our struggles with life, keep us strong and faithful. Let us feel

Ted Stuckenschneider
Worship Leader

the warmth and joy of Your ever present Holy Spirit and the reassuring hand of Your power. Thank You for bringing us through yesterday and giving us tomorrow. Prepare our hearts to hear Your Word and lift our voices as we praise Your everlasting goodness. May this worship service fill us with hope, love, and joy as we remember the gift of Your Son and in His Holy Name we pray. Amen

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Infinite God, in your greatness you have made the saints who have come before us great—people whom you have lifted up and called to do great things for your children in your name. Just as they are now with you, we ask you to be with us, and the people whom we have named, as we lift them up to you by name at this time...

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 10:14-24

Ted Stuckenschneider
Worship Leader

MEDITATION

"The Whatabouts: What About the Partisanship?"
See Insert for Meditation

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

HYMN

"They'll Know We are Christians"

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our
Love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love*

*We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's
pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes they'll know we are Christians by our love*

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.

Ted Stuckenschneider
Worship Leader

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ted Stuckenschneider
Worship Leader

**CALL TO
COMMUNION**

May we remember how Jesus died not for a party, but for a people—for all of us, and for all our sins

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

**COMMUNION
HYMN**

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

*I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul
I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul*

*I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain
I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul
I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain
I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul*

*I’ve got love like an ocean, I’ve got love like an ocean
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul
I’ve got love like an ocean, I’ve got love like an ocean
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul*

*I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got joy like a fountain
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul
I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got joy like a fountain
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul*

**COMMUNION
PRAYER**

Conclude by praying together the Lord’s Prayer

*Sara Simon
Elder*

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion (bread, juice, or whatever is available to you)

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

**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

BENEDICTION

May the God who guided you along the path here now send you back out onto the path, always with a way forward through the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the blessing of the Lord be with you now and always. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

POSTLUDE

“When We All Get to Heaven”

Margaret Cox Pianist

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

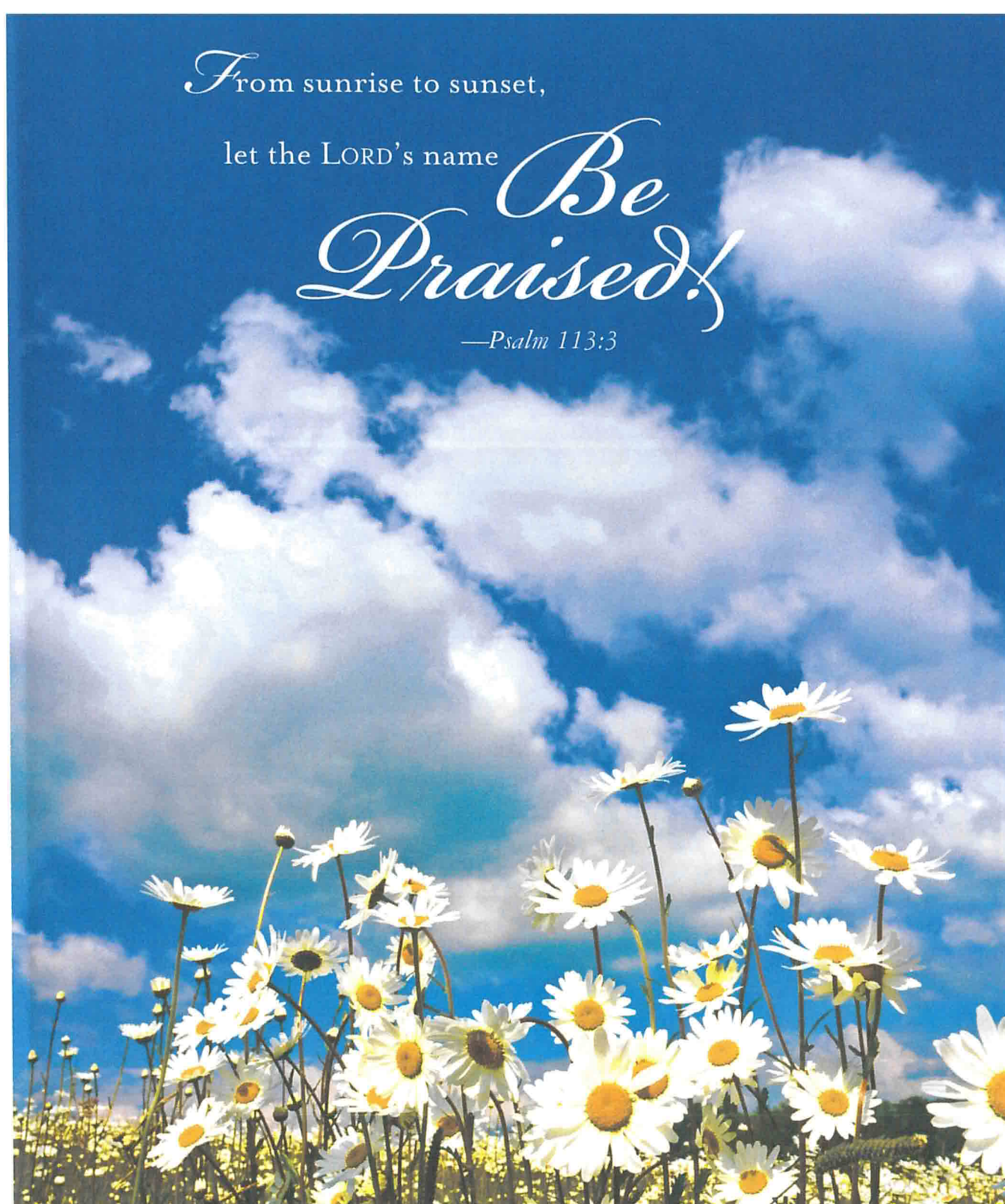
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From sunrise to sunset,

let the LORD’s name

*Be
Praised!*

—Psalm 113:3



MEDITATION

Sunday, November 1, 2020

“What About the Partisanship?” 1 Corinthians 10:14-24

“The Whatabouts: Responding to Questions with Faithfulness,” Week Eight

Most people, I think, as children commit at least one act of petty larceny, almost as a rite of passage—trying to nick cash from your parent’s wallet, perhaps, or trying to swipe an extra candy bar when trick-or-treating. I unintentionally attempted electioneering.

My dad, who is a lawyer by training and an appellate judge now, was running for the state legislature in Kansas. Well, “running” was too strong a word. He acquiesced to have his name on the ballot so that his opponent would not run opposed and people could have choices on the ballot. That was it.

Well, that was enough for me, and I went to my family’s ancient desktop computer, fired up the word processor, and created some homemade “brochures” (I use that term in the very loosest possible sense) touting what I believed was my dad’s electability, and appointed myself my dad’s de facto campaign manager. My first act as his campaign manager was to take these homemade “brochures” to school with me to hand out to my classmates and students.

It also proved to be my only act as campaign manager. Distributing election literature favoring one candidate over another is, and of course should be, illegal.

My dad disagreed with his opponent on a number of issues to be sure, but as he explained to me after I was unceremoniously relieved of any future duties, he put his name on the ballot really so that people could have a choice when they voted. He believed in us as voters having a choice when we vote, and he chose to live out that belief by giving our neighbors in our district such a choice.

I have come to see that as an act of empowerment by my dad, of empowering our neighbors by giving them a choice on their ballots. That was a gift he chose to give, and I think it is a good example for us as we run headfirst into both All Saints Day and the Sunday before Election Day in a general election that has been anything but normal. So, how can our saints lead us forward together?

This sermon series is my first as your new minister here at Valley, and I arrived at it after multiple conversations with the search committee about how and why evangelism came to be noted as so important a trait in the congregation’s search and call profile. And

(over)

specifically what I heard was a need to be equipped to talk to people about faith in a way that could answer their questions—questions to which we may or may not have all the answers, or not feel comfortable answering.

The way I experienced doing evangelism on the West Coast would sometimes come in the form of fielding questions from folks skeptical of the nature of my faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ, and I came to think of those questions as “the whatabouts,” as in, “Well, what about...?” Being honest in those moments was vital for my own integrity and for my friendship with the person asking me. I crafted this sermon series to tackle many of these questions. It’s a way for me to share with you what evangelism has looked like to me and in my ministry, by trying to answer those whatabout questions, and as a way to let you into my own theology and faith.

Today’s whatabout question is, “What about the partisanship?” And before you switch off your computers and hang up your phones, I hope you will take some time on this All Saint’s Day to hear me out. There really is a Word for us in having All Saint’s Day right before Election Day.

All Saint’s Day is the day set aside on the Christian calendar for honoring all our saints, known and unknown to us, who lived holy and sacred lives of compassion, justice, and goodness. It is a day we remember those whom we have lost by remembering the good they have done. We remember their achievements and accomplishments on behalf of human flourishing in the name of God.

What we tend not to remember, especially for our greatest saints, are their partisan affiliations. The great saints of the church are exactly that—of the church, not of one political party or another. We do not observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day by noting what a good Democrat or Republican he was. Major League Baseball does not honor Jackie Robinson by remembering what a loyal Republican or Democrat he was.

No, our saints are remembered for their humanity and their humanness. They are remembered for inspiring us to be better at our own humanity and humanness. And today, we desperately need to succeed at being so inspired by their example.