



# Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

I am excited to share the second 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 several Disciples of Christ congregations in the Birmingham area. Today, we will talk about Valley's evolution from that planting to the present day, and we will also hear from my immediate predecessor, Rev. Gary Edge, who served faithfully as Valley's minister for a dozen years before his well-earned retirement in the fall of 2019!

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 "Link to Zoom" then the Sunday Worship link.)

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Christ's and yours,  
Pastor Eric

# Valley Christian Church

## Third Sunday after Easter

April 25, 2021

### PRELUDE

*"Holy, Holy, Holy/Worthy of Worship"*

Margaret Cox  
Pianist

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have faith and love because of the hope reserved for us in heaven.

People: This hope is through the true message, the Good News.

Leader: This message has been growing and bearing fruit among us since the day we heard it.

People: By it, we truly understand God's grace.

Leader: Which is also growing and bearing fruit in the world.

People: Through our love of the Spirit.

(Colossians 1:5-6, 8, CEB)

Ginny Guindon  
Worship Leader

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth over & around us lies  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise*

*For the joy of ear & eye, for the heart & mind's delight  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound & sight  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise*

*For thy church that evermore lifteth holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore one pure sacrifice of love  
Lord of all to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise*

### INVOCATION

Ginny Guindon  
Worship Leader

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

God of life, you call on each of us to grow in our faith in you. We evolve along our path of faith, from children into adults, from immaturity into maturity. And we grow in our relationship with you. Through prayer and worship, we strive to come ever closer to you and to your will for us and for your 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 at this time...

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

### ANNIVERSARY REFLECTIONS

Rev. Gary Edge  
Former Valley Pastor

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:26-34

Ginny Guindon  
Worship Leader

### MESSAGE

"Evolution"

Rev. Dr. Eric Atcheson

### HYMN

*"In the Bulb There Is A Flower"*

*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree  
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be  
free*

*In the cold and snow of winter  
There's a spring that waits to be  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can  
see*

*There's a song in every silence seeking word & melody  
There's a dawn in every darkness  
Bringing hope to you and me  
From the past will come the future  
What it holds, a mystery  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can  
see*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity  
In our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity  
In our death, a resurrection, at last, a victory  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can  
see*

**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.

*Ginny Guindon  
Worship Leader*

**OFFERTORY  
PRAYER**

*Ginny Guindon  
Worship Leader*

**CALL TO  
COMMUNION**

*Rev. Gary Edge*

**COMMUNION  
HYMN**

*“One Bread, One Body”*

*(Refrain)*

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all  
One cup of blessing which we bless  
And we, though many, throughout the earth  
We are one body in this one Lord*

*Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all  
Refrain*

*Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to  
one, for all  
Refrain*

**COMMUNION  
PRAYER**

Conclude by praying together the Lord’s Prayer

*Sarah Draper  
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 called you here by name send you forth to continue to grow in love, 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.*

