

# WORSHIP IN THE LORD'S SANCTUARY

April 23, 2023

## THE BLESSING OF GATHERING

### WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

"The Four Winds"

Ed Guindon  
Worship Leader

### THE EAST

We greet you, spirit of the East. You usher in the beginning of a new day with your breeze. Awaken in us with each day new hope and joy. Fill our bodies with your breath. Inspire us with the miracles that are given with each new dawn.

### THE NORTH

We greet you, spirit of the North. You are the cold, biting wind that blows across our land. Teach us, spirit of the North, in the season of winter, to wait with the sleeping earth, already hold within ourselves the seeds of new life.

### THE SOUTH

We greet you spirit of the South. You bring the winds of summer and breathe on us the warmth of the sun. You soften the coldness of our world. Encourage us by the power of your warm breath to break through the soil of our fear. Drive our roots deep into the earth and stretch our branches out full into the sky.

### THE WEST

We greet you, spirit of the West. It is you who ushers in the sun. Guide our steps at the end of the day and keep us safe from evil. Fill us with your peace as you protect us in the night that we might rest securely in your arms until morning calls us forth again.

### \*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 and around us lies.*

*Refrain:*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain ]*

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ed Guindon  
Worship Leader

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

"The Tale of the Three Trees"

Rev. Edd Spencer

### SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:12    Genesis 2:8-9  
1 Peter 2:24    Revelation 22:2

Ed Guindon  
Worship Leader

### SERMON

"The Story of the Three Trees"

Rev. Edd Spencer

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

"How Great Thou Art"

*O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;*

*Refrain:*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]*

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]*

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Edd Spencer

### PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Edd Spencer

### STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Giving of Tithes,  
Offerings  
\*Doxology

Ed Guindon  
Worship Leader

"Take My Life"

*Take my life, and let it be, Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,*

*Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

\*Offertory Prayer

*Ed Guindon  
Worship Leader*

### ***THE GIFT FROM JESUS***

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Rev. Edd Spencer*

COMMUNION  
PRAYER

Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer

*Ed Guindon  
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."

### ***SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH OTHERS***

\*CLOSING  
HYMN

*"This is My Father's World"*

This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings The music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

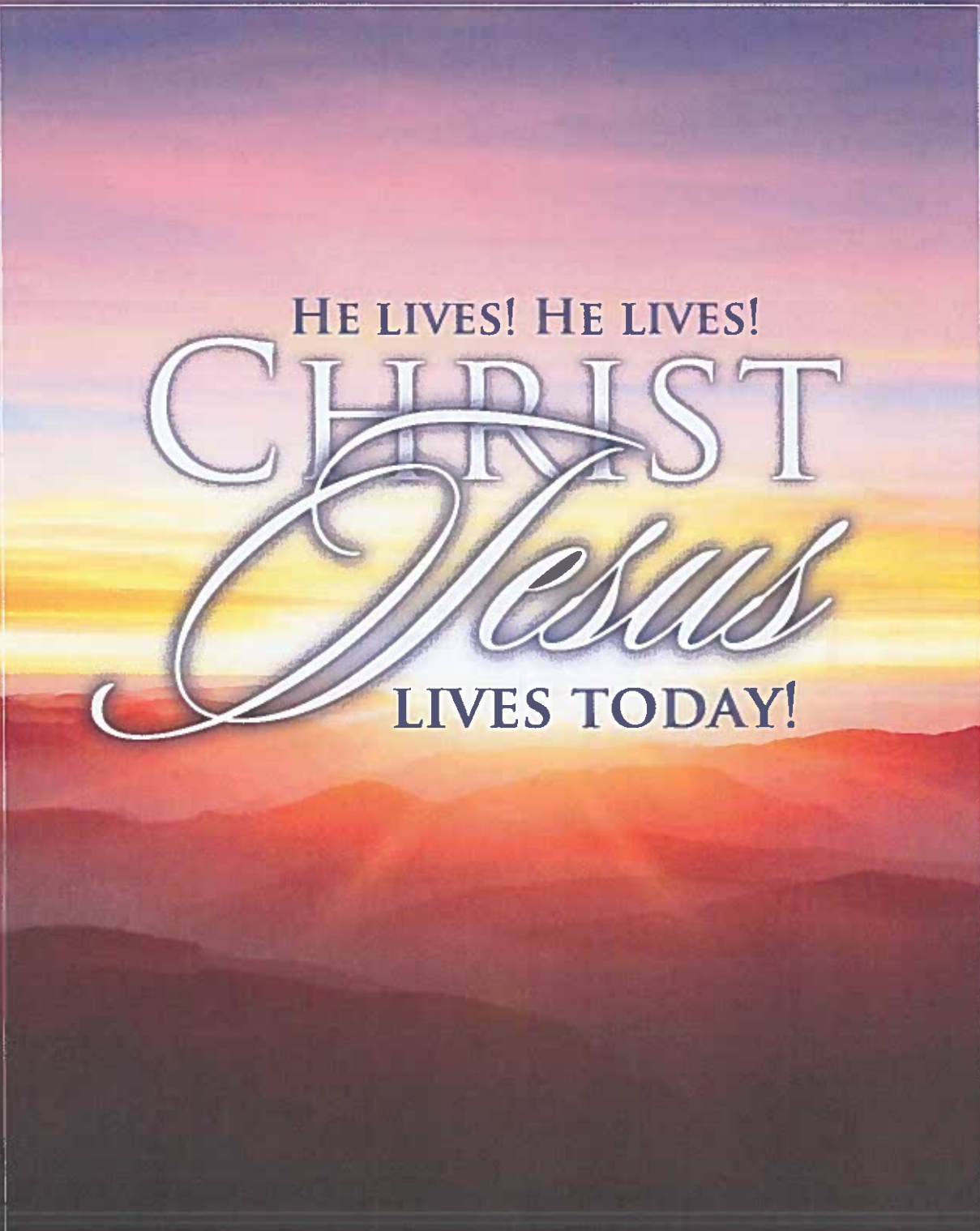
This is my Father's world: The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the flowers bright,  
Declare their Maker's praise.  
Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear God pass,  
Who speaks to me everywhere.

Our God has made this world: O let us ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.  
God trusts us with this world: to keep it clean and fair  
All earth and trees, the skies and seas, God's creatures  
everywhere.

\*BENEDICTION

*Rev. Edd Spencer*

We welcome all our guests who are worshipping with us today at Valley Christian Church. Please join us under the portico after the service for a time of refreshments and fellowship.



HE LIVES! HE LIVES!  
CHRIST  
Jesus  
LIVES TODAY!