

0 8 j a n u a r y 2 0 1 2
west valley presbyterian church
a church for the West Valley

and there was

DARKNESS

(luke 23.44) over the whole land

“Darkness is a harsh term, don’t you think?
yet it dominates the things I seek.”

“Don’t leave me alone at this time
for I’m afraid of what I will discover inside.”

(mumford & sons, *roll away your stone*)

proverbs 22.9, psalm 9.2, 46.10, john 1.5

At the dark cross of you, Jesus,
the rich and the poor meet together, the Lord is the maker of them all.

At the dark cross of you, Jesus,
we will be still and know that you are God.

At the dark cross of you, Jesus
**we will be glad and exult in you;
we will sing praise to your name,
for the light shines in darkness and the darkness has not overcome it!**

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

***Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live;
Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.***

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did ever such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all

declaring with the church historic

from the Heidelberg Catechism, question 1 and 2 (1563)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I, body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins.

How many things are necessary for you to know, that you, enjoying this comfort, may live and die happily?

Three; the first, how great my sins and miseries are; the second, how I may be delivered from all my sins and miseries; the third, how I shall express my gratitude to God for such deliverance.

prayer

greeting

oneness and otherness

Winter in His Heart of Gloom *-offering*



1. Win - ter in his heart of gloom sings the song of com - ing bloom;
 2. We from earth to heav'n shall soar in that flesh which once we wore,
 3. Mid the sor - row and the strife 'tis the mu - sic of our life,



5 So o'er death our souls shall sing lays of the e - ter - nal spring then de -
 Death-less now and glor - i - fied like our Lord and at His side this is
 And our song has this re - frain, our Re - deem - er comes a - gain (to chorus)



9 cay shall be no more Spring and the wea - ry seed time o'er, All the
 life's e - ter - nal Spring this the com - ing joy we sing Look we -



13 dead in Christ shall rise for the har - vest of the _ skies.
 ev - er t'ward that Day be it near or far a - way.

Chorus



17 Then there shall be, there shall be Then there shall be, there shall



21 be Then there shall be sor - row no more, no



25 more.

proverbs 4.19, deuteronomy 28.15,29

personal repentance and communal confession

The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you...

and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness...

O Lord, let me not only speak the word sin, but see the thing itself. Destroy, O God, the dark guest within, whose hidden presence makes my life a hell. Show me the extent of my darkness, then show me how you have not left me here without grace. Show me the cross that stands and meets me in the deepest, darkest straits of the soul. I thank you for the remembrance and reality of it. I thank you for the righteousness and light revealed by it. Give me more of Jesus. Amen.

philippians 3.9-10

promise of forgiveness and transformation

by faith, you will be found in Jesus.

not with my best efforts as my "righteousness"

but with his righteousness alone as your identity.

thanks be to God, through Jesus!

Arise, My Soul, Arise

Arise, my soul, arise, 'shake off your guilty fears;

The bleeding sacrifice, on my behalf appears;

Before the throne my Surety stands,

Before the throne my Surety stands,

My name is written on His hands.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise

Arise, my soul, arise.

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise

Arise, my soul, arise.

Shake off your guilty fears and rise

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;

His all redeeming love,

His precious blood, to plead;

His blood atoned for every race,

His blood atoned for every race,

And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;

They pour effectual prayers;

they strongly plead for me:

"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,

"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry,

"Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;

He owns me for His child;

I can no longer fear

With confidence I now draw nigh,

With confidence I now draw nigh,

And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.

Word

*Luke 23.44-49
this says it all.
jim powell, pastor*

God said it.

Jesus said it.

The centurion said it.

silence. say what?

Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of my sickness, into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of earth's sorrows, into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress to jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair, into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Sacrament

examine yourself - 1 Corinthian 11.23-28

Do you see brokenness and sin and need? Have you repented of it and been hungry for the mercy of Christ to cover you with his perfection? Have you turned from self-satisfaction (doing, fixing, defining) to Christ alone to satisfy your thirst? Have you publicly declared your allegiance to Christ among his church? Are you reconciled by Christ's forgiveness with all men (so far as you can tell) such that you come to his altar as a conduit of his mercy? Are you desperate for his rescue, for his rest, for his righteousness?

benediction

John 1.5

The light has shown in darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.
Go out in response to the gospel. Amen.

the sacrament of the Lord's table

Coming to the Lord's Table

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful gift from God. It is a "sacrament" – not so much a commanded "ordinance" where we obediently offer ourselves UP to God in participation, as much as it is a nourishing spiritual gift of grace sent DOWN to us by God.

At the Table, we are not simply prompted to cognitively remember the sacrifice of Christ, but rather, through it the Lord spiritually feeds us as we "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34: 8). The physical nourishment is a sign and symbol (sacrament) of the reality of spiritual nourishment – which is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come (Matthew 26:26-29). The early church appeared to have cherished the Lord's Table weekly – "On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread..." (Acts 20:7)

The church of Christ has celebrated the Lord's Supper in numerous ways over the centuries.

At West Valley, we use two approaches to the table, both of which communicate spiritual truths.

When the bread and cup are passed to us we are especially reminded of these truths:

- The work of Christ unites us not only to himself, but to each other. The gospel is not just about "me and Jesus". I am part of a larger family, the body of Christ, the church of Christ.
- As we pass the plates to each other we are reminded of the priesthood of all believers and the privilege of giving grace to each other.
- When we eat and drink at the same time, we are reminded of our deep spiritual unity in Christ. We partake of one spiritual food.

When we come forward for the bread and cup we are especially reminded of these truths:

- Jesus calls me into a personal relationship. I am called to come to Jesus in faith and repentance. Coming forward to the Table is a vivid picture of personal faith.
- We come forward as families, because "this promise is for you and your children." (Acts 2:39)
- The words of the gospel from those who serve ("the body of Christ given for you, the blood of Christ shed for you") remind me of the intensely personal nature of Christ's sacrifice - "... he who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Prayer for those searching for truth:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen

Prayer of belief:

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen

Prayer for those struggling with sin:

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings too closely, and to run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen

adapted from New Life Dresher, PCA

potter's wheel - wvpc kids ministry

nursery (0-24 months) and toddlers (2s-3s): offered during entire service.

children (4yrs-5th grade): dismissed to age appropriate classes following children's sermon, returning to families prior to the Lord's Supper

Room available for nursing mothers located through side hallway door.

Parents: have you received a copy of our children's ministry policies and "agreement to be a blessing"? If not, please see Rachel. Thank you for partnering with us as we join you in your calling to mold your children with the word/hands of the Potter (Isaiah 64:8)

QUESTIONS: contact Rachel at rachel@westvalleypres.org or 610.762.0786

wvpc announcements

wvpc community groups!

Christison/Nussbaum group (Macungie):- **Sundays**, meeting **tonight 7-9pm** and every other thereafter at the home of Matt and Jane Nussbaum. For more details and directions, contact Dominic Christison at: christison.d@gmail.com

Reed Group (Zionsville): Meeting every other Friday starting this week, **Jan 13, 7pm**. FMI contact Alyssa at 610.393.9777

Royes/Aiello Group (Breinigsville)- **Sundays 6-8pm**, meeting next week and every other thereafter at the home of Jeff and Danielle Aiello. FMI contact the Aiellos at: 610.844.5247

Buck group (Emmaus): **Starting soon**. For more details, please contact Chip or Karen Buck: 610.442.4866

community group leaders meeting here at the church tomorrow night, Monday, Jan 9, 7-9pm

wvpc women's Bible Study- We will be using the study guide, "Idols of the Heart: Learning to Live for God Alone" by Elyse Fitzpatrick. FMI contact Jane Nussbaum at mattjanenussbaum@hotmail.com or 610.295.3626)

Morning Study: starts this week! 9:15-11:15am on Thursday mornings at church, childcare available (\$2 donations per child if desired)

The annual Care Net Prayer Vigil for Sanctity of Human Life (SOHL) will be held on Saturday, January 21. Come pray at the Wescosville Center Saturday, Jan. 21. More details to come.

Snowblast Winter Festival- Art Show and Sale, Friday Feb 3, 6:00-9:00pm, in the clock building (our former worship space). Mark your calendars now. This is West Valley's signature serving opportunity of the year on Main Street in Emmaus. We'll be needing furniture movers before and after the event, LOTS of baked goods, cider servers at the door, and a clean up crew. Be blessed by the sounds of Ben Seitz's jazz ensemble and the high school men's a cappella group, Fermata Nowhere! Also, artists, be thinking about what piece you'd like to display or sell. One piece limit. Entry forms available on the back table.

Order of Worship bulletins are now available on the church's website on Fridays for the upcoming Sunday, should you desire to prepare your heart for worship. www.westvalleypres.org click on media, then liturgy.

visiting? Please help us know how we can serve you by filling out the green visitor card found in the seat back in front of you and dropping it in the offering plate.

Our West Valley elders are Dave Royes, Dave Reed and Matt Nussbaum. Should you have a desire to contact them please email them at shepherd@westvalleypres.org.

www.westvalleypres.org . 4251 chestnut street, emmaus pa 18049