

1 5 j a n u a r y 2 0 1 2
west valley presbyterian church
a church for the West Valley

what exactly are YOU LOOKING FOR?

from psalm 27

One thing have we asked of you LORD, this we will seek:

that we may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of our life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when we cry aloud; be gracious to us and answer us! You have said, "Seek my face."

Your face, LORD, we will seek. Hide not your face from us. Turn us not away in anger.

O you who have been our help, cast us not off; forsake us not, O God of our salvation!

We believe that we shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

All Creatures of our God and King

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

***O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light.

And thou most kind and gentle Death,
Waiting to hush our latest breath,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou leadest home the child of God,
And Christ our Lord the way hath trod.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

prayer

from Matthew 6

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever, amen.

greeting

oneness and otherness

You Alone Can Satisfy- *offering*

I have bowed at the altar, Of the world and its lies
Now I long to return to You, You alone can satisfy
I have wasted affections, On the things You despise
Now I long to return to You, You alone can satisfy

***My bread of life
You're my provider
You fill my soul with living water
Beneath Your wing
There is a shelter where I hide
You alone can satisfy***

There's no fortune or pleasure, That this world can provide
They have failed and they always will, You alone can satisfy
You're the Treasure that I've found, You're the meaning of life
You're my deepest desires fulfilled, You alone can satisfy

ecclesiastes 1.13-14, Matthew 6.33, 1 Corinthians 2.2

personal repentance and communal confession

And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven.
It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.
I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.
But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.
For I decided to know nothing ... except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

**O Lord, receive me as I seek you and find you in Jesus -
in his death as my death, in his life as my life;
help me to seek nothing more or less.
Rescue me from the exhaustion of
seeking you where you are not
seeking pleasure where it is not
seeking fame where it is not
seeking security where it is not
seeking joy where it is not
seeking rest where it is not
seeking myself when I should not.
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!

What the Lord Has Done in Me

Let the weak say "I am strong"
Let the poor say "I am rich"
Let the blind say "I can see"
It's what the Lord has done in me

***Hosanna! Hosanna!
To the Lamb that was slain
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Jesus died and rose again!***

Into the river I will wade
There my sins are washed away
From the heavens mercy streams
Of the Savior's love for me

I will rise from waters deep
Into the saving arms of God
I will sing salvation songs
Jesus Christ has set me free

Word

*children's sermon, Luke 23.44-49
jim powell, pastor*

what exactly are you looking for?

looking for _____.

it looks like real _____...
(23.50-56, 24.7)

his.

ours.
(see Luke 9.21-27)

...that precedes real _____.
(24.1-12)

his.

ours.

here. now.
(Psalm 27.13)

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me,
Save that Thou art
Thou my best thought
By day or by night
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light

Be thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee
And Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father,
I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling,
And I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven
My treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
Whatever be-fall
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all

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

from Matthew 6.33

But seek first the death and life reality of the kingdom of God in Jesus,
and all these things will be added to you.
Go in peace, 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, Jan 22, 7-9pm 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, next meeting **Jan 27, 7pm**. FMI contact Alyssa at 610.393.9777

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

Buck group (Emmaus):**Wednesdays 7-8:30, starting this week, Jan 18.** "Getting to the Heart of Parenting" DVD series with Paul Tripp and discussion afterwards. For more details, please contact Chip or Karen Buck: 610.442.4866

Middle School large group gathering this Saturday Jan 21, 7:30-9:00pm at the church, led by Clint Watkins. All middle school students invited to attend and bring a friend!

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: 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 THIS Saturday morning, January 21.

Join Carenet volunteers and others at the Wescosville Office for an hour of prayer for Care Net, the unborn, the community and the nation. The prayer walk will begin promptly at 9:00 lasting one hour. Come early at 8:30 and enjoy coffee, donuts and a tour of the counseling office. 5573 Hamilton Blvd., left rear.

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