



Women AT THE WELL

Valley United Methodist Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 18, 2020—9:00 a.m.

with Rev. Paul Witmer, Women at the Well UMC

Gathering Music
Welcome

Call to Worship

You are welcome here.

Everyone belongs.

No matter where you have been, what you have done, you are welcome.

Everything belongs.

May you find rest and renewal. May you find hope and peace.

We all belong.

Opening Hymn

Come as You Are

1-Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

Refrain

(So)Lay down your burdens lay down your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart
Come as you are

2-There's hope for the hopeless
And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table come taste the grace

There's rest for the weary
Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure *Refrain*

Bridge
Come as you are
Fall in His arms
Come as you are

3-There's joy for the morning O sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal *Refrain*

Opening Prayer **Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors
that they may swing gently and easily
to welcome your coming.**

a New Guinea prayer, from *Gifts of Many Cultures* (1995)

Time with Children

Scripture Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable:

¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back

safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Message The Hard and Promising Story of Return

Response *Reckless Love*

1-Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me

Refrain

O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah

2-When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me *Refrain*

Bridge

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me *Refrain*

Time of Prayer

Time of Offering

**We are the Receivers,
receivers of love**

receivers of grace
receivers of Jesus.
We are the Givers,
following God's call,
following Jesus,
following our hearts.
Lord, we give these offerings for the work of your kingdom,
with humble thanks for mercies received. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone

1- Amazing Grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost,
but now I'm found
was blind, but now I see

2-Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did
that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Refrain
My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior
has ransomed me

And like a flood
His mercy reigns
Unending love,
Amazing grace

3-The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures *Refrain*

4-The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below
I'll be forever thine
I'll be forever thine
I am forever thine

Benediction

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Sunday School on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. We'll plan to meet for about an hour. All are welcome. Join the Fellowship Zoom by 10:30 and we'll adjourn for our class. Meeting ID: 749 7831 1513 and Passcode: pxn14E

CWS Blankets: There is still time to give to the CWS blankets fund. 85 blankets have been purchased so far. It only takes \$10 to buy a blanket for someone in need. Make a difference in the lives of others by making a donation for CWS. Mark your check "blankets".

Church Office: The Church Office will be closed on **Fridays, October 16 and 23.**

Join a Valley UMC "Connect" Group: Our CD Team is rolling out a plan to link up our Valley folk. We'll form into Connect Groups of 5-8 people each. See the current Valley Views for more information and contact the church office or Margaret Forster (515/221-2725) to sign up.

Doing Theology with Dan Schott: After listening to Pastor Lee's sermon yesterday, I was inspired to offer an opportunity to others in the Valley UMC community to join me for conversation and consideration of our theological beliefs. I have found that there is truth in Proverbs 27.17, "*as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*" (NIV) If you, or others you may know, might be interested in joining me in this conversation, please contact me by email at djschott42@gmail.com. Please indicate what days of the week and times would work in your schedule. If there are several individuals who have an interest, I would plan for us to begin meeting in mid-November.

Shattering the Silence Gathering, Sunday, October 18 at 2 pm at the Judicial Branch Building next to the state capitol. You're invited to join in a public gathering and witness about the importance of addressing racial injustice in our nation. This gathering is sponsored by a group of faith leaders, including Pastor Lee, calling ourselves Faithful Voices for Racial Justice, a project of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa. Here are a few details; check with Pastor Lee for more information:

People of different faiths and beliefs will come together to Shatter the Silence on racism in our nation and communities, particularly the impact of historic and systemic racism in the criminal justice system. We will declare together that "we will work for freedom, standing alongside our siblings of color in their fight for their rights and liberties in this state."

Join us at the Shattering Silence statue next to the Iowa Judicial Building for a time of declaration, reflection, and a commitment to take action to dismantle racism in our state. Companion events are planned at the same time in other locations in the state, including Cedar Rapids. All who are committed to ending racism in our society and in our criminal justice system are welcome. Masks are required (extras will be available for those who forget) and social distancing will be followed. The event will be live streamed.

Charge Conference: The 2020 Charge Conference will be held via Zoom on **Sunday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m.** Watch for more information with links and Charge Conference Reports in future emails and on our website. All Valley UMC members are invited to attend.

Calendar: Week of October 18-25 (*Note: Be sure to schedule your meetings for the Fellowship Hall or the Gazebo through the church office) Contact the church office for Zoom links for events happening online.

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:30 a.m.	Adult & Youth Sunday School-Zoom
Tuesday, Oct. 20	NOVEMBER VALLEY VIEW DEADLINE	
	6:30 p.m.	Administrative Leadership Meeting-Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 21	4:00 p.m.	Prayer Group—Zoom
Thursday, Oct. 22	2:00 p.m.	Racism Conversation—Zoom
Friday, Oct. 23	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
Saturday, Oct 24	11:00 a.m.	Cub Scouts-gazebo
Next Sunday, Oct.25	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship to Corn Maze
	6:00 p.m.	Charge Conference-Zoom