



worship

at Altadena Valley Presbyterian Church

Welcome to Altadena Valley

We are glad you are here.

Please visit our website at www.avpc.org for more information about our beliefs, our staff and our ministries.

We want you to feel as comfortable as possible while attending worship with us, so here are a few details which might be helpful to you.

- Children are always welcome to participate in worship with their families. But, in case you need it, we do offer childcare for children ages 3 and under during both morning services. Please ask an usher for directions to where the childcare area is located.
- Midway through the worship services, children ages 4 to 6 years old will be dismissed and escorted to their own church time in Room L-1 of the Education Building. Parents can pick up their children after Sunday School (no later than 10:55 AM please) or after the 11:00 AM service.
- A Nursing Mother's room, with an audio feed of the service, is located just outside the Sanctuary, next to the Parlor.
- During the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45) adults are free to attend one of the following classes:

Pilgrims: This discussion class will include a brief introduction to the period of the Judges and the life of Samson.

Fellowship Hall: Join us for "Christ and Culture: Living in God's Two Kingdoms". We will study the "two kingdoms" teaching of Scripture and learn how to live as God's people in a world that is often hostile to them.

Young Adult: This class will also be studying "Christ and Culture" using the same resources the Fellowship Hall class.

If you are visiting with us, we would love an opportunity to get to know you better. Please scan the QR code below, or sign the pew registry pad. We give our first-time visitors a small gift, which you can get in the Welcome Center or Narthex.

Come, let us worship together!

In consideration of others, please silence all electronic devices.

**VISITORS:
SCAN HERE**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 26, 2023 | 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

PRELUDE

“Jesus is Our Great Salvation”

Jesus is our great salvation, worthy of our best esteem. He has saved his favorite nation, join to sing aloud of him. He has saved us. Christ alone could us redeem. When involved in sin and ruin and no helper there was found, Jesus, our distress was viewing; grace did more than sin abound. He has called us, with salvation in the sound. Let us never, Lord, forget thee. Make us walk as children here. We will give thee all the glory of the love that brought us near. Bid us praise thee and rejoice with holy fear. Free election known by calling is a privilege divine. Saints are kept from final falling; all the glory, Lord, be thine.

Music by Clint Wells. Words by John Adams.

We encourage you to use this time to prepare your hearts for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP • Psalm 150

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

(All) Praise the LORD.

Through God's Word, his people are called to enter into his presence in corporate worship.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Doxology”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVOCATION

THE WELCOME OF GOD

*Our welcome
of one another
is a tangible
expression of
God’s welcome
to us.*

SONGS OF PRAISE

“How Great is Our God”

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty,
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

*(Chorus) How great is our God, sing with me, how great is our God.
And all will see how great, how great is our God.*

And age to age he stands, and time is in his hands,
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead three in one: Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. *(Chorus)*

*(Bridge) Name above all names, worthy of all praise,
My heart will sing, how great is our God. (Chorus)*

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash.

“By Faith”

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation’s grand design,
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of his promise in their hearts,
Of a holy city built by God’s own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.

*(Chorus) We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on him, our soul’s reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We’ll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth. *(Chorus)*

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon his name. *(Chorus)*

Words and Music by Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend.

“Show Us Christ” (11:00 AM Service)

Prepare our hearts, O God,
Help us to receive.
Break the hard and stony ground,
Help our unbelief.
Plant your Word down deep in us,
Cause it to bear fruit,
Open up our ears to hear,
Lead us in your truth.

*Show us Christ. Show us Christ.
O God, reveal your glory
Through the preaching of your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.*

Your Word is living light
Upon our darkened eyes,
Guards us through temptations,
Makes the simple wise.
Your Word is food for famished ones,
Freedom for the slave,
Riches for the needy soul,
Come speak to us today.

*Show us Christ. Show us Christ.
O God, reveal your glory
Through the preaching of your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.*

Where else can we go, Lord? Where else can we go?
You have the words of eternal life. *(Repeat 2 X's)*

*Show us Christ. Show us Christ.
O God, reveal your glory
Through the preaching of your Word
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.*

Words and music by Bob Kauflin and Doug Plank.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PLEASE BE SEATED

**Sovereign Lord, your will is supreme in heaven and earth,
and all beings are creatures of your power.**

**You are our Father,
your inspiration gives us understanding,
your providence governs our lives.**

**But, O God, we are sinners in your sight;
you have judged us so, and if we deny it, we make you a liar.**

**Our hearts are full of vanity, brazenness, wrong affections,
backwardness to duty, and proneness to evil.**

Yet in Christ, you are reconciled to your rebellious subjects.

**Give us ears of faith to hear him,
the eyes of faith to see him,
the hands of faith to receive him
the appetites of faith to feed upon him;
that we might find in him light, riches, honor, and eternal life.**

**Enable us to remember who you are
and what we are,
to recall your holiness and our unworthiness
and to approach you with humility.**

**Possess our minds with the grandeur of your perfections
and let us never forget your patience, wisdom,
power, faithfulness, care
and never cease to respond to your invitations.**

**Thank you that your love to us in Jesus
is firm and changeless;
nothing can separate us from it.**

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Adapted from Valley of Vision: "Seventh Day Morning: God's Good Pleasure."

SILENT CONFESSION

*We encourage you
to use this time for
silent reflection.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Leader) God, by an eternal and immutable decree,
out of his mere love,
for the praise of his glorious grace, to be manifested in due time,
has elected some angels to glory;
and in Christ,
has chosen some men to eternal life, and the means thereof;
and also, according to his sovereign power,
and the unsearchable counsel of his own will
(whereby he extends or withholds favor as he pleases),
has passed by and foreordained the rest to dishonor and wrath,
to be for their sin inflicted, to the praise of his justice.

**(All) In love God predestined us for adoption
to himself as sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,
to the praise of his glorious grace,
with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.**

The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination
is to be handled with special prudence and care,
that men, attending the will of God revealed in his Word,
and yielding obedience thereunto,
may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation,
be assured of their eternal election.

So shall this doctrine afford matter of praise,
reverence, and admiration of God;
and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation
to all that sincerely obey the gospel.

**In Christ we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of God's grace,
which he lavished upon us,
in all wisdom and insight
making known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.**

Westminster Larger Catechism A13; Westminster Confession of Faith 3: 8; Ephesian 1:5-9.

*We receive
assurance through
Scriptures and
the Westminster
Standards that
in love, God has
predestined us
for adoption
into the family of
God as sons and
daughters, and
we have been
redeemed by the
blood of Jesus
Christ.*

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #128

“God Moves In a Mysterious Way”

God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain.
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

Words by William Cowper. Music based on the *Scottish Psalter* hymntune, DUNDEE.

PLEASE STAND

Hymn writer, William Cowper, lived a life of mental distress.

His emotional maladies included an 18-month stay in an insane asylum and multiple suicide attempts. During his time in the asylum, he began to read the Bible, and at age 33, Cowper became a Christian.

But even after his conversion, Cowper would periodically experience deep depressions and overwhelming fear that God would forsake him.

“God Moves in a Mysterious Way” is thought to be his final hymn and a reflection on God's good, faithful, providential, yet mysterious work throughout his own lifetime.

PLEASE BE SEATED

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

*At this time,
children ages 4-6
are dismissed for
their worship.*

SCRIPTURE READING • Romans 9:6-29

⁹⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹ For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— ¹² she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? ²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea,

“Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’
and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’”

²⁶ “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’
there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, ²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” ²⁹ And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”

SERMON • “Unconditional Election” Rev. Brad Allison

Romans 9 is not the only passage in the Bible about the doctrine of election, but it is the lengthiest. Any Christian who believes the Bible must believe in election, for the simple reason that the Bible speaks clearly and frequently about this. Jesus said, “I know those I have chosen” (John 13:18). Where Christians differ is in their understanding of the meaning of election and predestination. To simplify things somewhat, there are Christians who believe the Bible teaches double predestination, the idea that God predestines some to salvation and others to damnation. Then on the other side, some Christians believe that God offers the gospel to all and elects some on the basis of his foreknowledge that they will believe. In this view it is people who ultimately elect themselves, with God responding based on his knowledge of their choice. As we explore the teaching of election in this chapter, I’m going to be making the case that the Bible teaches something between these two. We will explore these things through asking the same three questions Paul asks here.

I. Has God’s Word Failed?

II. Is There Injustice on God’s Part?

III. How Can God Find Fault?

*As an act of
worship, we give
back to God a
portion of our
many blessings.*

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

("Self-serve communion packets" are available at all main sanctuary entrances. Gluten-free "bread" is available in the Welcome Center. As the elements are passed, feel free to state the following words to the person next to you in the pew: Bread—"This is Christ's body, given for you." Juice—"This is Christ's blood, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.")

SONG OF RESPONSE

"How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place"

*"Lord, why was
I a guest? Why
was I made to
hear your voice,
and enter while
there's room,
when thousands
make a wretched
choice, and
rather starve than
come?"*

How sweet and awesome is the place with Christ within the doors, while everlasting love displays the choicest of her stores. While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast, each of us cries, with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest? Why was I made to hear your voice, and enter while there's room, when thousands make a wretched choice, and rather starve than come?" 'Twas the same love that spread the feast that sweetly drew us in; else we had still refused to taste, and perished in our sin. We long to see your churches full, that all the chosen race may, with one voice and heart and soul, sing your redeeming grace.

(Congregation join in singing.)

While all our hearts and all our songs join to admire the feast,
Each of us cries, with thankful tongue, "Lord, why was I a guest?"

Words by Isaac Watts. Old Irish hymn melody.

HYMN OF RESPONSE • #460 (vs. 1-4, 6)

PLEASE STAND

“Amazing Grace”

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.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Words by John Newton. Traditional American melody.

BENEDICTION

*Our worship
concludes with
God sending us
into the world
with his blessing.*

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WEEKLY BIBLE READING (March 27 - April 2)

Joshua 5-6 • Joshua 7-8 • Joshua 23-24 • Judges 2-3 • Judges 4

Announcements

OUR MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK is Laura Power who is based in Birmingham, AL, and serves with the Campus Outreach SERVE program. She is Office Manager and Event Coordinator for all Campus Outreach locations, including 38 locations worldwide and 16 international cities.

- **PRAYER MINISTRY NEWS:** The Prayer Prompt bookmarks from the Prayer Ministry Team are now available for use. Pick up your copy from the Parlor or Welcome Center.
- **EASTER FLOWERS:** Now is the time to pick up an order form for Easter flowers. Details can be found on the forms located in the Parlor and Welcome Center. Deadline to order is April 2.
- **AVPC EASTER EGG HUNT:** AVPC's children and outreach ministries will be hosting our annual Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 8 in Altadena Park. We are collecting small toys (that would fit in plastic eggs) and candy. Donations can be left in the marked box in the Parlor and Welcome Center. April 1 will be the last day for donations. Contact Catie at catie@avpc.org with questions.
- **COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE:** We are once again making Altadena Park available for a blood drive Sunday, April 2. Lifesouth Community Bloodcenters will be here from 1:00-7:00 PM. No appointment is necessary, but if you would like to schedule a time, you can do so on the Lifesouth Bloodcenter website. A registration link can also be found in our weekly newsletter.
- **NEW TOPICS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our new semester of Sunday School will begin on April 2. You can pick up an informational sheet from the Parlor , Welcome Center, or on our website - Worship & Media - Resource Links.
- **MEN'S PRAYER AND BREAKFAST:** Starting on Saturday, April 15th, the Men's Ministry is kicking off a monthly time of prayer followed by breakfast every third Saturday, hosted at the MacCaughelty home (2382 Cahawba Trail) from 7:30-9:00 AM.
- **WACK 2023:** Registrations are now open for this year's WACK week, July 10-13. Grab a pamphlet from the Welcome Center or Parlor or you can register on our website, - Events - Event Registrations.
- **WEEKDAY CUSTODIAN POSITION:** The church is looking for someone to fill a paid, part-time position, who can perform custodial work for 20 hours a week. For complete job description and application, visit our webpage, - About Us - Employment Opportunities.
- **GHK – PART-TIME PRESCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER:** God's House Kindergarten is looking for a part-time music teacher for the 2023-24 school year. Hours are 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Monday – Friday. The pay for this position is \$16-\$20 per hour with PTO days. Responsibilities include leading children ages 2 - 5 in music classes and performances. Must love children while being patient and flexible with the ability to create lesson plans. Experience & degree preferred. For more information and job application, contact Michelle Taylor (michelle@avpc.org)

Calendar

SUNDAY (MARCH 26)*

8:30 AM Worship Service
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship Service
 Brad | Romans 9:6-29
 5:00 PM Community Groups
 Men's Bible Study

MONDAY (MARCH 27)

6:30 AM Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
 3:00 PM WTW Bible Study - Allison Home

WEDNESDAY (MARCH 29)

9:00 AM WTW Bible Study - Church Parlor
 6:00 PM Community Groups
 WTW Bible Study - Parker Home

THURSDAY (MARCH 30)

9:00 AM Men's Coffee

SUNDAY (APRIL 2)

8:30 AM Worship Service
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship Service
 Brad | Psalm 24
 5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 Community Groups
 Men's Bible Study
 Kids & Youth Activities
 6:30 PM Community Fellowship Meal
 with dessert potluck

**Celebration of The Lord's Supper*

- **AVPC BOOKKEEPER:** Altadena is looking for a qualified individual to fulfill a full-time opening for church bookkeeper. A full job description and application can be found on the church webpage, - About Us - Employment Opportunities.

	03/19/23 Receipts	Year-To-Date Receipts	Year-To-Date Requirements	Over(Under) Budget
General Fund	\$11,585	\$288,258	\$296,161	(\$7,903)
Faith Promise	\$10,979	\$63,457	\$58,120	\$5,337

AVPC VISION

A community of Christ's coming kingdom, bringing hope to a broken world.

AVPC MISSION

Loving God and loving others as we are transformed by his love.

PASTORAL STAFF

Bradford E. Allison
Senior Pastor

Stephen Whitner
Associate Pastor—Worship

Michael MacCaughelty
Associate Pastor—Outreach/Mercy

Blake Harris
Associate Pastor—Adult Ministries

CHURCH LEADERS

ELDERS

David Allen Steve Barley Brian Beckett Grahame Bobo Clint Cvacho Nicholas Ireland
Brent McClenny Jack Morris Barry Parker Karl Poythress Thomas Prettyman Danny Wachs

DEACONS

Woody Armstrong Hunter Boggs David Coley Al Foster Trey Holmes Matt Jackson Russell Lloyd
Josh Moore John Peters Josh Putman Bill Sommer Rob Wise Ed Wofford

YOUNG ADULTS & MEN'S MINISTRIES

Blake Harris
Young Adult & Men's Ministry Leader

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catie Lumpkin
Children's Director
Alli Campbell
Nursery Director

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Women's Ministry Director

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Clint Cvacho
Youth Director
Callen Moyer
Girl's Discipleship Director
Michael Whitner
Youth Worship Leader

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACILITY

Christine Rowlette
Church Administrator
Connor Bingham
Administrative Assistant
Jimmie Campbell
Bookkeeper
Dave Mayhew
Facilities Manager
Christin Murphy
Kitchen Coordinator

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Heather Sommer
Worship Ministry Assistant
Young jin Jeon
Organist
Carol Apol & Ricky Klose
Sound Ministry Directors