

# Welcome to our Worship Celebration

July 23, 2017 at 9:00 am



Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church

# Sunday Worship Gathering

## July 23, 2017

**God is reconciling all of creation**

**God gathers the church to worship with all that we are**

Paula Ash

*Leader:* Stand and bear witness to the fulfillment of God's promise: We are those descendants, too many to count ...

***People:* Like the dust of the earth. Like the sands of the beach. Like the stars in the heavens.**

*Leader:* We are those descendants, too many to count . . .

***People:* From the West and the East. From the North and the South.**

*Leader:* Too many to count ...

***People:* From the Atlantic and the Pacific. From Antarctica and Australia.**

*Leader:* Too many to count ...

***People:* From Canada to Cote d'Ivoire. From New York to Nairobi.**

*Leader:* We are those descendants, too many to count . . .

***People:* Blessed of God. Blessed to be a blessing.**

**Listening to God's Story**

Paula

John 3:1-16 (The Message)

<sup>1-2</sup> There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we all know you're a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren't in on it."

*continued . . .*

*scripture continued . . .*

<sup>3</sup> Jesus said, “You’re absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it’s not possible to see what I’m pointing to—to God’s kingdom.” <sup>4</sup> “How can anyone,” said Nicodemus, “be born who has already been born and grown up? You can’t re-enter your mother’s womb and be born again. What are you saying with this ‘born-from-above’ talk?” <sup>5-6</sup> Jesus said, “You’re not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the ‘wind-hovering-over-the-water’ creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. When you look at a baby, it’s just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can’t see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit. <sup>7-8</sup> “So don’t be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be ‘born from above’—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it’s headed next. That’s the way it is with everyone ‘born from above’ by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean by this? How does this happen?” <sup>10-12</sup> Jesus said, “You’re a respected teacher of Israel and you don’t know these basics? Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don’t believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can’t see, the things of God? <sup>13-15</sup> “No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man.

*continued on next page . . .*

*scripture continued . . .*

In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

**Prayer** (based on Genesis 28)

Paula

God of our mothers and our fathers,  
God of ages past, God of all our tomorrows,  
we have come here at your invitation.  
We come, as companions on a journey,  
through this howling wilderness called life.  
We are a motley, mixed multitude.  
Some of us are on top of the world,  
and others of us have been wearied  
by the ordinariness of our days.  
Yet we all long for something new.  
Surprise us with a glimpse of your presence,  
just as you surprised the prophet Isaiah long ago,  
and just as you surprised Jacob  
on the road to Haran.  
Open our eyes, God,  
to a fresh vision of your love.  
Open our hearts,  
that we might sense your presence  
and be healed today. **Amen.**

## **Songs of worship**

Christie & Todd

*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Praise Songbook

*I'll Fly Away*

" "

*Pour Out My Heart*

" "

## **Confession** (based on Matthew 13)

Paula

God of the heavenly stair, we are imperfect people,  
longing for a glimpse of your glory.

We are like Jacob,

praying for a fresh start

after a past that still makes us blush.

When we consider the field of our hearts,

we hope to be deemed more wheat than weed  
when the day of reckoning comes.

With the psalmist, we ask you to examine our hearts,

and make our imperfections known to us,  
that we might have the courage to change  
and become the people  
you envision us to be.

## ***Silent confession***

## **Forgiveness through Christ**

Paula

(based on 1 John 1)

Receive the good news:

God, who is faithful and just,

forgives those who sincerely confess their sins.

Hear this good news:

We worship a God of forgiveness,  
not condemnation.

## ***Pass Christ's peace to one another***

# Praying as a church—asking for God’s hope and justice, giving testimony of God’s goodness and forgiveness in our lives and neighborhoods

Sylvia Chatagnier

## Hearing God’s Story

Paula

John 3:1-16 (NRSV)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

*continued . . .*

*scripture continued . . .*

<sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

## **Hosting God’s Story**

Matthew Kost

## **Finding ourselves in God’s Story**

Everyone

## **Practicing generosity—giving our offerings**

### **Prayer** (based on Genesis 28)

Paula

God, just as you received Jacob’s gift  
of oil poured on the stone that had been his pillow,  
receive our humble gifts today  
as an act of worship.

May our offering make your name known  
in places where you are needed. Amen.

## **Song**

*I Surrender All*

Christie & Todd  
Praise Songbook

## **God sends us to be the church in the world**

Matthew

God promised that every family of the earth  
would be blessed through God's people.  
You are blessed to be a blessing.  
You have been blessed.  
Now go and be a blessing! Amen.



## Visitors: Welcome to Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian

We are glad that you have joined us for worship and want you to feel warmly welcomed to this community of faith. It is our prayer that you will experience God's presence in our worship and fellowship. We would be delighted for you to join us for a cup of coffee or tea and refreshments in the fireside room (right next to the sanctuary) following the service. Our pastor is always available to talk or answer questions, just leave your name and phone number or email address with a church member.

## Special note to children and their parents:

We welcome all children and families in our worship gatherings and provide books and coloring materials on the kid's table as you enter the sanctuary. We believe that children are an essential part of our church community. We have designed our worship services to include times of interaction, response, and movement to invite the participation of younger members. Please talk with Pastor Matt about creative ways that your children can be involved in our worship services. We also have a nursery available.

---

***Everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments and fellowship after this morning's worship celebration.***

---

Ushers: Bob & Lucie

Coffee Hour: Ice Cream Social

Nursery Attendant: As Needed

CCLI #135345

## Calendar and Announcements

Week of July 23, 2017

THIS MORNING	after worship 11:00 am	Coffee Hour Session Meeting
WEDNESDAY	7:00pm	Bible Study
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 am	Worship Celebration

### Sabbatical Information

Pastor Matt is on sabbatical from June 5<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>. We believe that a time of Sabbatical benefits him, his family and our church community. This time away from vocational ministry is allowing Pastor Matt to seek spiritual and emotional rest, to cultivate creativity, and to strengthen his marriage and family. He is going on prayer retreats, spending time in creation, visiting art museums, reading, and spending time with family. Please ask for one of our prayer cards to give ideas of how to pray for Pastor Matt and his family during this time. Our members are overseeing the various ministries at YVPC. Please contact them with any questions.

- Worship Services—Christie Jacoban (925-586-6093)
- Bible Studies—Terri Louie (925-395-3524)
- Visitation—Stan Wilson (925-768-1723)
- Building Liaison—Todd Swick (925-286-0555)
- Homeless Feedings—Paula Ash (925-435-2859)
- Sabbatical Coordinator—Sylvia Chatagnier (925-447-3461)

### Backpack Drive 2017-18: Donations Needed

Once again, YVPC will be helping Contra Costa Interfaith Housing provide backpacks & school supplies to formerly homeless and low-income children for the upcoming school year. There is a list of needed supplies in the church office. Terri Louie has volunteered to lead this mission, so if you have any questions, feel free to contact her. Please leave your donations in the church office by July 30<sup>th</sup>.

### BBQ—Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars! The Wilson's will be hosting a BBQ. More information to follow.

## Ongoing Church Experiments 2016 & 2017

- 1) Community Meals— Potluck 5/10; Ribs on 5/28
- 2) Learning Trips—Global Immersion Trip to Mexico/U.S. border (May 4<sup>th</sup> –7<sup>th</sup>) Sylvia Chatagnier and Inhabit Conference on Neighborhood (April 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>) Mike & Kim Thompson, Matt & Susannah Prinz
- 3) Grapevine project—Soil preparation & Irrigation—April 1<sup>st</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup> Planting
- 4) Faith and Culture classes—music & faith—TBA
- 5) Church Retreat—Lake Tahoe—October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
- 6) New Songs—ongoing, putting together new song book
- 7) Pastoral Sabbatical—June & July

## Slow Church

Our session is reading 'Slow Church—cultivating community in the patient way of Jesus' by Christ Smith and John Pattison. We are discussing a chapter each month and using it to reflect upon our church and neighborhood. We want to invite church members to join us in reading, reflecting, and praying through this book. Want to read along with us? Ask Pastor Matt and he can get you a copy.

## Join Us!

Studying the Scriptures and other stories of faith can help us reflect upon our own lives, to be encouraged and to be guided to new steps of faithful living. Come and join the many opportunities for study and reflection.

The Presbyterian Women (10:30am), the **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month**, visiting church members for lunch—come and join them.

**Wednesdays**—Bible Study (7pm)—Reading *9 Beats*, by Mark Scandrette. Come for prayer, study, reflection and community.

## Usher and Coffee Hour Volunteers

### Ushers

JULY

30<sup>th</sup> Laura & Stan

AUGUST

6<sup>th</sup> Paula & Lucie  
13<sup>th</sup> Juanita & Ruth B.  
20<sup>th</sup> Kim & Mike  
27<sup>th</sup> Bob & Todd

### Coffee Hour

Wilson Family

Ash & Skourup Families  
Barcelon & Luthy Families  
Thompson Family  
Kathy Youngson

# Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church

*is a community faith that:*

- **Accepts Jesus as the clearest revelation of the God of the Old and New Testament**
- **Is open to all who are on a journey of faith seeking truth and meaning for their lives through a relationship with God**
- **Will respect each person's journey of faith**
- **Believes our mission is: *To Love, Obey, and Glorify God by Making and Being Disciples of Jesus Christ, and by Loving All***

**Matt Prinz—Pastor**

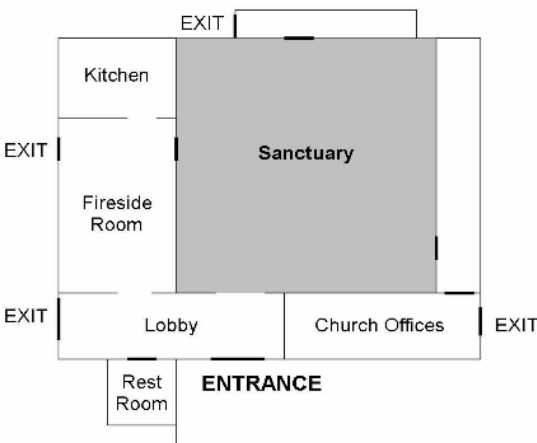
Matt & Linda Kost, Christie Jacoban &  
Todd Swick—Song Leaders/Piano/Guitar

Cherie Trautz—Office Manager

Sylvia Chatagnier-Clerk of the Session

Paula Ash, Bob Bailey, Linda Kost, Laura

Wilson & Kathy Youngson—Elders



**2140 Minert Road  
Concord, CA 94518**

**(925) 682-8254**

**FAX (925) 687-4452**

**[www.yvchurch.org](http://www.yvchurch.org)**

**E-Mail:**

**[welcome@yvchurch.org](mailto:welcome@yvchurch.org)**

**Office Hours: 9am-1pm**

**Monday-Friday**