

The Vine

I am the vine; you are the branches...John 15:5

A publication of Valley Falls Christian Church

December 2021

We don't do presence very well. You may see four people eating together at a restaurant and all four are looking at their phones. We can sit in the living room with the TV on, a tablet and a phone, and a spouse or child also looking at their devices.

Our culture is making it harder and harder to just 'be' with someone. To enjoy their presence in the room and have a conversation. Is it even possible to just simply be together in silence anymore?

As the noise of the world increases, we grow farther apart.

God's chosen people had become distracted by the world. They chased after the treasures of the world. They worshiped the false gods of their neighbors. They had forgotten what is was to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

God spoke through prophets, but they would not listen. His voice was drowned out by the noise of the world. The racket of their selfishness and sin distracted them from what was holy and good.

So God became quiet. He never left, but his voice was not heard for 400 years. Our quiet God also never stopped planning. He was getting ready to move again. His presence would once again be with his people.

An angel visited an old priest named Zechariah and foretold the birth of John the Baptist, who would prepare the way for the Lord.

He visited a young virgin named Mary and her husband-to-be Joseph to tell them that God would enter into our world through Mary's baby, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

On a quiet night, the sky exploded with angels as they told lowly shepherds that the Savior, Jesus Christ was born. God was no longer silent as the word incarnate drew breath in a stable near Bethlehem. Immanuel, God with us. His presence is again with his people

In December, read, meditate on, and pray over the following verses. Read the context and chase related references.

This Christmas season, as we try to combat the noise, let's quiet ourselves and connect with the presence of God. *Mike*

30 Days of Presence

- Dec 1: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7-8, 15-17; 3:8-11
- Dec 2: Genesis 32:24-30
- Dec 3: Deut 31:6-8; Joshua 1:5-9
- Dec 4: 2 Chronicles 7:12-15
- Dec 5: Jeremiah 24:4-7; 31:33-34
- Dec 6: Daniel 3:16-28
- Dec 7: Psalm 16:5-11
- Dec 8: Psalm 23
- Dec 9: Psalm 139
- Dec 10: Matthew 11:28-30
- Dec 11: John 6:35-40
- Dec 12: John 15:1-11
- Dec 13: Revelation 3:20-22
- Dec 14: John 7:37-39
- Dec 15: Romans 8:9-11
- Dec 16: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Dec 17: Philippians 4:4-9
- Dec 18: Hebrews 10:19-25; 11:6
- Dec 19: James 4:5-10
- Dec 20: Matt 18:20; John 12:24-26
- Dec 21: Hebrews 13:1-6
- Dec 22: Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7
- Dec 23: John 1:1-5, 14
- Dec 24: Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec 25: **Christmas** Luke 2:1-20
- Dec 26: John 14:15-21, 25-28
- Dec 27: John 14:1-6
- Dec 28: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Dec 29: Revelation 7:15-17
- Dec 30: Revelation 21:1-8
- Dec 31: (Bonus day) Matt 28:18-20



CHRISTMAS FAMILY ADOPTION:

The church has adopted families through God's Storehouse in Meriden that are less fortunate to help give them a joyous Christmas. If you are unfamiliar, there is a sign-up sheet with instructions on the foyer table. Gifts need to be wrapped and at the church by noon on December 14th.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES: We will fill the food boxes **after church on Dec. 5th**. We need wrapped shoe boxes, and food items to put in them. Suggested items: fruit, homebaked goodies, individually wrapped, pudding, jello, teas, crackers, applesauce, cocoa etc. See Deb Gerstner for details.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES:

During the month of December, there will be a children's message during our worship service as we prepare for Christmas. We will ask the children 6th grade and younger, who would like to, to come forward for a special lesson just for them!

The Lord's Supper

Beginning December 5, we will begin passing the communion trays and the offering plates again. If you prefer prepackaged communion emblems, those will still be provided. You may pick them up from the table in the foyer when you enter church.

Please check to see if you are responsible for preparing (and cleaning up) communion and make sure that is done before worship. Also please check to see if you are a server. If you cannot complete your scheduled tasks, please find someone who can fill in for you.

If you would like to be added to the list communion preparers, please tell Pastor Mike or Rhonda Mitchell.

Men's Breakfast: NO MEN'S BREAKFAST THIS MONTH.

Pocket Change for Progress: Please continue saving your pocket change for VFCC youth programs and School Supply Project. There is a bucket for your change anytime, not just the third Sunday.

Past sermons are available online at www.valleyfallsc.org. If you cannot access them this way, you may ask Pastor Mike for a cd copy.

On line sermon opportunity: For those sheltering at home, church service will be available to live stream on YouTube (and Facebook). Also available on YouTube, previous services. Don't forget to subscribe to Valley Falls Christian Church YouTube channel

Sermon Series, Scripture



GOD WITH US:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Dec 5 | From The Cross
John 19:28-30 |
| Dec 12 | The Crooked Christmas Tree
Matthew 1:1-6 |
| Dec 19 | Christmas Sunday
The Birth of Hope
Matthew 1:18-24 |
| Dec 26 | Wise Men Worship
Matthew 2:7-12 |

Christmas Eve Service
Friday, Dec 24th @ 7
Everyone Welcome

Dec	Greeters	Scripture	Devotion	Servers	Nursery
05	Barret	Barret John 19:28-30	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Jarret / Brian	Tiffany/Aleyna
12	Spencer	Spencer Matt 1:1-6	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Wayne /Jackson	Debbie/Abby
19	R Mitchell	Mitchell Matt 1:18-24	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Ray /Chad	Brittany/Dakota
26	Farr	Farr Matt 2:7-12	Stan	Jay/Stan/ Clinton /Kyle	Aisha/Rhonda

December communion devotion and prayer: Stan Farr

Prayer Requests: Emma Dockweiler, Becky Arnold, Wayne & Christy,

OUR SOLDIERS: Curtis Mitchell, Aaron Cook, Jacob Mitchell, Matthew Branam, Noe Garza, Gary Flack, Dayton Flack

Church Offerings:

Oct 24 - \$ 778

Oct 31 - \$ 1623

Nov 07 -\$ 2109

Gyve totals not included in totals.

Give to VFCC online through our partnership with Gyve at: <https://gyve.io/give/valleyfallsc>

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Matthew Boyce
 - 4 Allison Thomas
 - 13 Misty Eaton
 - 15 Mike & Gina Kirby (1984)
 - 18 Ray & Rhonda Mitchell (1982)
 - 20 Charlie & Clare Brown (1970)
 - 21 Dan & Janet Strang
 - 23 Judy Flack
 - 26 Chad Spencer
 - 28 Alucard Heinen
 - 30 Jacob & Kari Mitchell (2005)
 - 31 Jarret & Aisha Mitchell (2014)
- (Names in CAPS in Mission Field)



There will be a Ladies Christmas Party at 2 PM, Sunday, Dec 12th, at Nancy Gatzemeyer's house. Everyone Bring a snack.



Valley Falls Christian Church

511 Oak Street
Valley Falls, KS 66088

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Phone: 785-945-6757
Email: office@valleyfallsc.org
On the web: www.valleyfallsc.org
Find us on Facebook!

Mike Kirby, Pastor

You are welcome to join us!

Sunday Service times: Bible Study (all ages) – 9:00 AM
Youth Group (grades 6-12) – 5:00

Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
		1	2	4
		6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
5	6	8	9	11
5 PM – Youth Group	1:30 – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac 7:00 Bible Study		
12	13	15	16	18
2 pm Ladies Christmas Party @ Nancy Gatzemeyer's 5 PM Youth Group	1:30 – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac No Bible Study		
19	20	22	23	24/25
5 PM Youth Group	1:30 – Sunflower Crafters	No Worship prac No Bible Study		FRIDAY 24 7 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY
26	27	29	30	31/01
5 PM Youth Group	1:30 – Sunflower Crafters	6:15 PM – Worship prac No Bible Study		