ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

"More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause;
mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies."
– Psalm 69:4

September 27, 2020 | Morning Worship | 10:40 a.m.

Please silence all electronic devices.

"Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise."

Prelude — At the Name of Jesus — Burkhardt
Ms. Lisa Barry, organ

Welcome

Call to Worship

* Hymn — Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven — LAUDA ANIMA

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, His praise should sing?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as His mercy goes.

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the High Eternal One.

* Affirmation of Faith — The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Congregational Response — ANDREWS

Angels, help us to adore Him; you behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

* Prayer of Adoration

"Let my prayer come before You; incline Your ear to my cry!"

First Gospel Lesson — John 15:18–25
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

General Prayer of Confession

Our Father in heaven, please forgive us of our many sins. We are sorry for the times we have broken Your law, grieved Your Spirit, and done what is right in our own eyes. Have mercy upon us. Cleanse us. Renew a right spirit within us. Soften our hearts and make us eager to do Your will, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness — Pastor Heath Cross

* Hymn — My Song Is Love Unknown — ST. JOHN

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne, salvation to bestow;
But men cared not, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
But "Crucify" is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet all His deeds their hatred feeds; they 'gainst Him rise.

They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet willing He to suff'ring goes, that He is foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in Whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside something..."

God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory — God Is Gone Up with a Shout — Angerman & Martin
Stephens Valley Church Choir

God is gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! Let all the nations sing praise. For God is a great King over the earth! Sing Him a new psalm. For God is the ruler over the nations. For He is holy. All ye people, clap your hands!

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth."

Prayer for Illumination

Second Gospel Lesson — Mark 3:1–6
All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

Sermon — A Startling Contrast — Pastor Jim Bachmann

Prayer of Intercession

"I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in Him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread — Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart — Hayes
Mr. David German, piano

Sharing the Cup

* Hymn — Love Divine, All Loves Excelling — BEECHER

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down:
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

* Benediction

* Postlude — Praise My Soul — Goss
Ms. Lisa Barry, organ

* congregation standing

– ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Greetings: We welcome you to our time of worship this morning! We ask you to observe the recommended social distancing guidelines and strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask.

Communion: Please note that a gluten-free option for communion is available at both entrances to the fellowship hall.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Harvey Edwards, Sr.

April 29, 1935—September 22, 2020

Memorial Service: A memorial service for Bob Edwards will be held this Friday, October 2, at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Share our YouTube: One of the best ways to promote our church is by sharing the link to our YouTube channel. Look for the word "share" at the bottom of any video and you can cut and paste the link.

COVID Relief Fund: The Council has established a COVID relief fund to aid those who have been adversely affected by the COVID virus. If you wish to make a donation, simply note "COVID relief" on the memo line of your check

Starting Point: Pastor Jim invites all visitors to his 6-week Starting Point class which gathers for the next four Sundays in the conference area of the office suite.

Coffee Help Needed: Volunteers are needed to help set up and serve coffee on Sundays from 8:15-9:30 a.m. and to help with clean up after the worship service. Serve one time per month. To sign up, please contact Joan Guthrey (joanguthrey@yahoo.com).

Wednesday Night Bible Study: Join us Wednesday evening for our series called **"Hot Button: Thinking Biblically About Some of the Most Controversial Issues of Our Time."** This week, Pastor Heath Cross will discuss Critical Theory and Intersectionality. Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m.; the Bible study will begin at 6:00 p.m. This week's menu is marinated pork loin, smashed potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, yeast rolls and caramel cake. Reservations for dinner and childcare (ages 0-3) must be submitted through the church website by today. The suggested donation for dinner is $7/person and $25/family.

SVC Youth: All SVC middle and high school students are invited and encouraged to invite their friends on Wednesday nights now through October 14 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. for dinner and a fun time of games, fellowship, and discovering what God's Word has to say about today's hot topics in student culture. For more information, contact Troy Hargrave (thargrave19@gmail.com).

SVC Prayer: A prayer time will be held on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201A to pray for Stephens Valley Church and the country.

SVC Men's Bible Study: The men's Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount continues this Friday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. This week, the discussion will be about Matthew 5:27-30. For more information, contact Craig Valentine (craigv@entrust4.org).

SVC Women's Bible Study: The Tuesday morning Bible study continues through November 17 and again on January 19 through March 30. All women are invited and encouraged to attend from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Childcare is available up to age 4.

– THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR –

Today, 9:00 a.m.	Officers' Prayer Time
Today, 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
Today, 10:40 a.m.	Worship service
Today, 3:00 p.m.	Officers meeting (Café)
Today, 5:00 p.m.	DivorceCare (online via Zoom)
Monday, 9:00 a.m.	Sabbatical Search Career Group
Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.	SVC Women's Bible Study leaders meeting (Café)
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.	SVC Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.	Sweet Half Hour of Prayer (St. Paul Chapel, first floor)
Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.	Prayer Time (Room 201A)
Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.	GriefShare (online via Zoom)
Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.	SVC Youth Gathering
Wednesday, 5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Dinner
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Bible Study
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 9:00 a.m.	SVC Men's Bible Study (Café)
Friday, 10:30 a.m.	Memorial service for Bob Edwards

SVC Women Schedule Changes: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus, the Widows' Luncheon for October has been canceled. The SVC Women's conference with Nancy Hicks has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2021. The Christmas luncheon is now scheduled for Thursday, December 10.

Our Daily Bread: Devotional booklets for October–December are available in the lobby. They are free, postage paid and in large print!

CHURCH STAFF

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Stephens Valley Church (SVC) cleans regularly with products designed specifically to neutralize COVID-19, including weekly cleaning of all public spaces used during worship, and more frequent cleaning of common areas used intermittently during the week. In addition, SVC conducts temperature checks upon entry, provides hand sanitizer and masks, and encourages social distancing. We have also restructured our communion, offering, and attendance pad process to avoid person to person handling. Despite these efforts, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place or meeting where people are present as well as other inherent risks and dangers associated with public meetings. By your presence at SVC, you knowingly and voluntarily, accept, and assume responsibility for, each of these risks and dangers, including but not limited to COVID-19, and all other risks and dangers that could arise out of, or occur during, your use of the facilities at Stephens Valley Church.

Stephens Valley Church

Biblical, Reformed, Independent

A Startling Contrast

September 27, 2020

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