

Falls Village Congregational Church

March 29, 2020

Order of Worship

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Words of Introduction

Prelude

Call to Worship

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth

“Be still and know that I am God, I am exalted among the nations.”

The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Hymn 585 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you show yourself in Jesus Christ.

You are the peace of all things calm, the place to hide from harm.

You are the light that shines in the dark, the heart's eternal spark.

You are the door that opens wide, and the guest who waits inside.

You are the way, the truth, the life, our Savior.

We welcome you and invite you to be the one who leads us in worship and the one who we worship. Amen.

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession and Silent Confession

Loving God, we are grateful for your consistent and gentle leading. Yet we confess that we are flawed followers. We allow ourselves to be led astray by every distraction the world offers. Instead of choosing streams of living water, we are drawn to stagnant and lifeless puddles. Instead of allowing you to anoint us in righteousness, we wander aimlessly, toward the sin that would destroy us. Guide us back to your heart, that goodness and mercy would permeate every aspect of our lives. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading – Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

²**Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

³**If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?**

⁴But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

⁵**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. R**

⁶my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸**It is God who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. R**

Gloria Patri

Offering of the Peace

Scripture –

John 11: 1-27 (NRSV)

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met

him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

John 11: 28-45, 53 (NRSV)

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Meditation – “Why Jesus Wept”

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 628 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Benediction

Postlude *“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”*