

The Falls Village Congregational Church

February 21, 2021 10 a.m.

1st Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude *Allegro*

D. Scarlatti

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. There we will not fear, though the waters roar and the mountains tremble.

God's love endures forever.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Hymn: # 180 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days v. 1,4*

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

In this world where goodness and evil continue to clash with each other, instill in us, and in all your people, discernment to see what is right, faith to believe what is right, and courage to do what is right. Keep us aware of the subtlety of sin, and preserve us, body, mind, and soul, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God: Your ways are not our ways, though we have sometimes confused them. If we have too often looked or

longed for an easier gospel, a lighter cross, a less demanding savior, forgive us. Turn our eyes away from what we want to choose, to the one who has chosen us. Forgiveness our unfaithfulness and, for our better living, let us accept the grace you offer today. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading - Psalm 32, p. 739.

R: Be glad in God and rejoice, shout for joy, you upright in heart
Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon mee; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. R

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;

At a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

Be glad in God and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. R

Gloria Patri

#35 in hymnal

Passing the Peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Let us pass the peace

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

Susan Kelsey

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Confronting the Wild Beast”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #340 *Softly and Tenderly*, vv. 1,3

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Scripture Lessons for February 21, 2021

GENESIS 9:8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

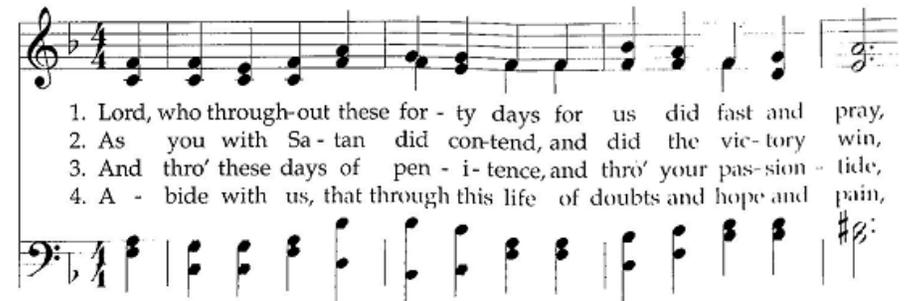
¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

MARK 1:9-15

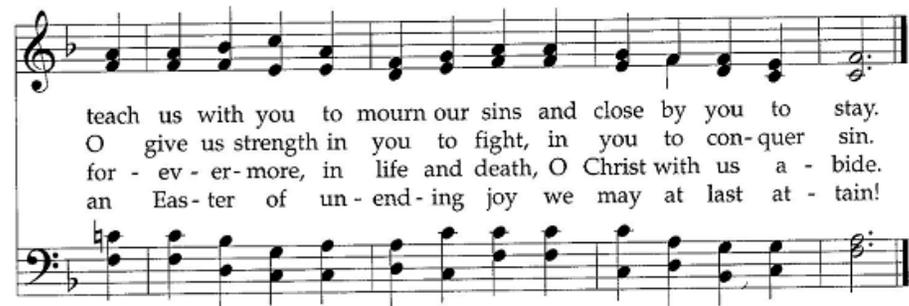
⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

180 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2. As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3. And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your pas-sion - tide,
4. A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,



teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con-quer sin.
for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ with us a - bide.
an Eas-ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

Softly and Tenderly

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2. Why should we lin - ger when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3. O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,

call - ing for you and for me; pa - tient and lov - ing, he's
 plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we wait, then, and
 prom - ised for you and for me; tho' we have sinned he has

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain
 Come home, come home, come home, ye who are
 Come home, come home, come home,

wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing— call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"