

The Falls Village Congregational Church

March 14, 2021 10 a.m.

4th Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude *Adagio*

Felix Mendelssohn

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Only the hungry search for bread. Only the thirsty look for water.

This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings.

May the God of life satisfy our souls.

Hymn: # 517 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, vv. 1,2

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

God, we come with hesitant steps and uncertain motives to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated, and uncover the ways we have strayed from your truth. Expose the empty and barren places where we don't allow you to enter. Reveal our half-hearted struggles where we have been indifferent to the suffering of others. Nurture the faint stirrings of new life, where your spirit has begun to grow. Let your healing light transform us into the

image of your Son. For you alone can bring new life and make us whole. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Yet we confess we too easily succumb to cynicism, denial, fear, and despair. Forgive our too small faith and give us the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. Have mercy on us, and help us to place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 130

p. 762.

R: From the depths I cry to you, God, listen to my voice.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice!

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

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

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

I wait for you, my soul waits, and in your word I hope. R

My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning

More than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with God is great power to redeem.

It is God who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. 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: Numbers 21:4-9
John 3:14-21

Frank Hadsell
Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The Joy of Lent”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #343 *Blessed Assurance, vv 1,3*

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Scripture Lessons for March 14, 2021

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in - to ev - ery trou-bled breast;
 3. Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all thy life re-ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less let us be,

fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom-ised rest;
 sud-den-ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem-ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re-stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com-pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;
 take a - way our love of sin-ning; al - pha and o - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo-ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem-bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with-out ceas-ing, glo - ry in thy per-fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise.

NUMBERS 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

JOHN 3:14-21

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“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. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through

him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Refrain

far - ther and far - ther a - way?
 he will not turn thee a - way. Call - ing to - day,
 come, and no long - er de - lay.
 quick - ly a - rise and o - bey. Call - ing, call - ing to - day, to - day,

call - ing to - day;
 call - ing, call - ing to - day, to - day; Je - sus is
 Je - sus is ten - der - ly

call - ing, is ten - der - ly call - ing to - day.
 call - ing to - day.

343 Jesus Is Tenderly Calling Thee Home

1. Je - sus is ten - der - ly call - ing thee home— call - ing to - day,
 2. Je - sus is call - ing the wea - ry to rest— call - ing to - day,
 3. Je - sus is wait - ing, O come to him now— wait - ing to - day,
 4. Je - sus is plead - ing, O list to his voice— hear him to - day,

call - ing to - day; why from the sun - shine of love wilt thou roam,
 call - ing to - day; bring him thy bur - den and thou shalt be blest;
 wait - ing to - day; come with thy sins, at his feet low - ly bow,
 hear him to - day; they who be - lieve on his name shall re - joice;