

The Falls Village Congregational Church
March 21, 2021 10 a.m.
5th Sunday in Lent
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude *Largo and Allegro*

Benedetto Marcello

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship -Romans 5:18-21

Just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all,
So one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.

For just as by one man's disobedience the many were made sinners,
So by one man's obedience the many will be made righteous,
Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that just as sin exercised dominion in death

So grace might exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Confident of God's grace, let us worship the living God.

Hymn: # 709 *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*, vv. 1,2

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

As we worship this morning, gracious God, teach us what we need to hear, show us what we need to see, and embolden us to do what we need to do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, in this world where goodness and evil continue to clash with each other: Forgive our failure to work against the evil

and to work more boldly for the good. Instill in us 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.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 46 p. 742.

R: A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations rage, dominions totter; God speaks, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us,

The God of Israel is our refuge. R

Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has brought desolations on the earth;

Who makes wars cease to the end of the earth; who breaks the bow, shatters the spear; and burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Israel is our refuge. 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 9: 24-41

Maria Bulson
Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “An Astonishing Thing”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #546 *Amazing Grace*” vv.1,2,4

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Amazing Grace!

546

Scripture Lessons for March 21, 2021

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous
 MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN
 CM

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

JOHN 9:24-41

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from

God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
and a cov - ering, show - ing forth that God is near!

On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er flows their
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and

709 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken,
2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters,
3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering,

Zi - on, cit - y of our God; God, whose word can -
spring - ing from e - ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy
see the cloud and fire ap - pear for a glo - ry

sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
thirst to as - suage? Grace, which like our God, the
shade by day, safe they feed up - on the

round - ed, thou may - est smile at all thy foes.
Giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
man - na which God gives them when they pray.