

The Falls Village Congregational Church
April 18, 2021 10 a.m.
3rd Sunday of Easter
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude *Prelude in A-flat* J. S. Bach

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Come, you Easter people, who sing in the midst of uncertainty.

Let us worship our God, who is faithful and just.

Come, you Easter people, who rejoice in the face of suffering and despair.

Let us worship Jesus who defeated sin and death.

Come, you Easter people, who pray even when you don't have the words.

Let us worship the Spirit who intercedes on our behalf.

Come, you Easter people, let us worship the Lord this day.

Opening Hymn: #222 *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*, vv. 1,3

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

O God, who leads us into mystery that no human words can fully express, and invites us to experience love which knows no bounds: may your Spirit touch us in those real places of life, to bring us hope in our hurting, clarity in our confusion, grace in our guilt, belief in our doubt. Breathe your life into our worship and into our world. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God, there is no one else like you. You are always true and faithful in your promises. You listen to us patiently with the compassion of a loving parent. You answer us with perfect wisdom. You brought us salvation. Yet we confess that we take you for granted and neglect time with you in prayer. We fail to follow your commandments. Forgive us, Lord. Call us to repentance, and set before us the gift of loving grace and abundant life, that we would hunger for the things that make us whole. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading—Psalm 99:1-5, 9 p. 751

R: To God all people give thanks: sing praises all people to God.

The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble!

The Lord sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion, and is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Holy is the Lord! R

Mighty ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity;

You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God' worship at God's footstool. Holy is the Lord!

Extol the Lord our God, and worship at God's holy mountain; for

the Lord our God is holy. 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: Acts 4:32-37
Luke 24:36-49

Akke Jasmine
Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Building Up and Tearing Down”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #545 *He Leadeth Me*, vv. 1,2

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Scripture Lessons for April 18, 2021

ACTS 4:32-37

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). ³⁷He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

LUKE 24: 36-49

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

222 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Unison

1. Christ is ris-en! Shout ho-san-na! Cel-e-brate this day of days.
 2. Christ is ris-en! Raise your spir-its from the cav-erns of des-pair.
 3. Christ is ris-en! Earth and heav-en nev-er-more shall be the same.

Christ is ris-en! Hush in won-der; all cre-a-tion is a-mazed.
 Walk with glad-ness in the morn-ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre-a-tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des-ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res-ur-rec-tion, not a ser-vant, but a friend;
 Tell its grim, de-mon-ic cho-rus: "Christ is ris-en! Get you gone!"

Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.
 Je-sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.
 God the first and last is with us. Sing Ho-san-na ev-ery-one!

545 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

1. He lead-eth me: O bless-ed thought! O
 2. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor
 3. And when my task on earth is done, when,

words with heav-en-ly com-fort fraught! What-e'er I do, wher-
 ev-er mur-mur nor re-pine; by wa-ters still, o'er
 by thy grace, the vic-tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I

e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.
 trou-bled sea, still 'tis thy hand that lead-eth me.
 will not flee, since God thro' Jor-dan lead-eth me.

Refrain

He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me:

his faith-ful fol-lower I would be, for by his hand he lead-eth me.