

The Falls Village Congregational Church  
May 9, 2021 10 a.m.  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements  
Ringing of the Bell  
Prelude

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

**Call to Worship** (from Isaiah 55)

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

**For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth,**

Making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater.

**So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth, says the Lord.**

It shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in that for which I sent it.

**Opening 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):**

**O God, who has ordered this wondrous world and who knows all things in earth and heaven: So fill our hearts with trust in you that, at all times and in all seasons, we may without fear commit all that we have and hope to be to your never failing love, for this life and the life to come, through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**O Lord, you have placed us in families for our blessing, and yet we confess we too often fail to be the loving and supportive households you desire. We get caught up in our own needs and are insensitive to the feelings of others. We fail to be peacemakers and to take the risks which lead to healing. Forgive us, and help shape our families to be the communities of care and encouragement you desire. Amen.**

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

## TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

**Responsive Reading**—Psalm 97, p. 749.

**R: God of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

The Lord reigns! Let the earth rejoice, let the many coastlands be glad!

**Clouds and thick darkness surround the Lord; righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne.**

Fire goes before the Lord, and consumes God's adversaries on every side.

**God's lightnings illumine the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

**The heavens proclaim God's righteousness; and all the peoples behold God's glory. R**

All worshipers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before the Lord.

**Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.**

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

**The Lord loves those who hate evil, guards the lives of the faithful and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

**Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name! 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 10:44-48

Kay Blass

John 15:9-17

Rich Reifsnyder

**Prayer**

**Sermon:** "I Have Called You Friends"

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

**Hymn** #585 *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*, vv. 1,3

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

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## *Scripture Lessons for May 9, 2021*

### *ACTS 10:44-48*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### *JOHN 15: 9-17*

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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.

585 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
 3. Are we weak and heav-y lad - en, cum-bere'd with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith-ful, who will all our sor-rows share?  
 Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

