

The Falls Village Congregational Church  
August 15, 2021 10 a.m.  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude *Prelude in D – E. Allyn*

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (from Psalm 57)

My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast;

**I will sing and make music. I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.**

For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.**

Opening Hymn – #59 *This is My Father's World*

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

**O Holy One: we hear and speak so many words, but yours is the word we most need. May your living word work within us and do all those things of which your word is capable—to comfort us and disturb us, to touch our need and break our pride, to shrink our uncertainties and enlarge our wonder. Be present, O Lord, in this time of worship. Speak to us and help us to listen. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**God of mercy, who cares for all the peoples of the world: Forgive us when we are trapped by our sense of being victims of injustice and unfairness, when we know we can be unfair and unjust in our treatment of others. Help us to find our healing and wholeness in Jesus, who forgives, and cleanses, and sets us free. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

## TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading—Psalm 51: 1-3, 6-7, 9-13, 15 p. 743

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: Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Bruce Anderson

Ephesians 5:15-33

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The School for Christian Character”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

## TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

## THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #464 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Benediction

Benediction Response

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

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# This Is My Father's World 59

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears, all  
 2. This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise, the  
 3. Our God has made this world; oh, let us ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
 morn - ing light, the flow - ers bright, de - clare their Mak - er's praise.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
 Our God has made this world and shines in all that's fair; in  
 God trusts us with this world, to keep it clean and fair. All

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God's hands the won - ders wrought.  
 rust - ling grass I hear God pass, who speaks to me ev - ery - where.  
 earth and trees, the skies and seas, God's crea - tures ev - ery - where.

# Psalm 51:1-3, 6-7, 9-13, 15

Psalm 51:10  
 Carl F. Mueller

RESPONSE

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God.

R

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
 according to your steadfast love;  
**according to your abundant mercy  
 blot out my transgressions.**
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
 and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 **For I know my transgressions,  
 and my sin is ever before me. R**
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being;  
**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
 wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 **Hide your face from my sins,  
 and blot out all my iniquities. R**
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.**
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
 and sinners will return to you.
- 15 **O Lord, open my lips,  
 and my mouth will declare your praise. R**

## *Scripture Lessons for August 15, 2021*

### ***SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6-7***

<sup>6</sup>Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. <sup>7</sup>Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

### ***EPHESIANS 5:15-33***

<sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without

blemish. <sup>28</sup>In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

# God of Grace and God of Glory 464

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; fill our lives that  
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

1. pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 2. sail thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us,  
 3. thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 4. we may be strength - ened with all Christ - like gra - ces  
 5. we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

1. bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 2. free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 3. rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 4. pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 5. be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

1. for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 2. for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 3. lest we miss thy righ - teous goal, lest we miss thy righ - teous goal.  
 4. lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.  
 5. serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.