

The Falls Village Congregational Church  
August 22, 2021 10 a.m.  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude *Aria* – G. B. Pescetti

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

Call to Worship –

Come, let us seek the blessing of God on the church in this place.

**Here may the faithful find salvation, and the indifferent be awakened.**

Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.

**Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort.**

Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.

**Here may the aged find consolation and all be inspired.**

Come, let us worship the living God.

Opening Hymn – #56 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

**God of grace: You have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Loving Lord, who makes all things new: You call us to look forward to the future, but we confess we spend much of our time looking backwards. We focus on “might have beens” and “should have dones” rather than making the most of the opportunities before**

**us. Fix in us firmly the assurance that you forgive our mistakes and lead us into new purposes according to your will. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Responsive Reading—Psalm 15, p. 729

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: Joshua 24:1-5, 14-18

Mary Atwood

Ephesians 5:15-33

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Strong in the Lord”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

Hymn #613 *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

Benediction

Benediction Response

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

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*You are invited to place your offering as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church*

# For the Beauty of the Earth

56

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,  
 2. For the beau-ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,  
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 5. For thy church that ev-er-more lift-eth ho-ly hands a-bove,

1. for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 2. hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 3. for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight,  
 4. friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 5. of-fering up on ev-ery shore one pure sa-cri-fice of love,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864  
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

DIX  
 77.77.77

# Psalm 15

Amos 5  
 Lon Oliver; harm. Larry St

## RESPONSE

*Unison*

Let jus-tice roll down like the wa-ter and

right-eous-ness like an ev-er-flow-ing stream.

## R

- 1 O God, who may abide in your tent?  
 Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- 2 **Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
 and speak the truth from their heart;**
- 3 who do not slander with their tongue,  
 and do no evil to their friends,  
 nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
- 4 **in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
 but who honor those who fear God;**
- 5 **who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**  
 who do not lend money at interest,  
 and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
**Those who do these things shall never be moved. R**

## *Scripture Lessons for August 22, 2021*

### *JOSHUA 24:1-2, 14-18*

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3</sup>Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; <sup>4</sup>and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. <sup>5</sup>Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst; and afterwards I brought you out...

<sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

<sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” <sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out

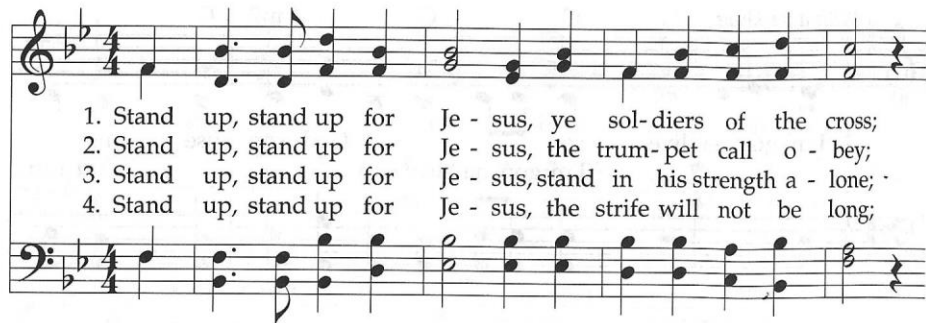
before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

### *EPHESIANS 6:10-20*

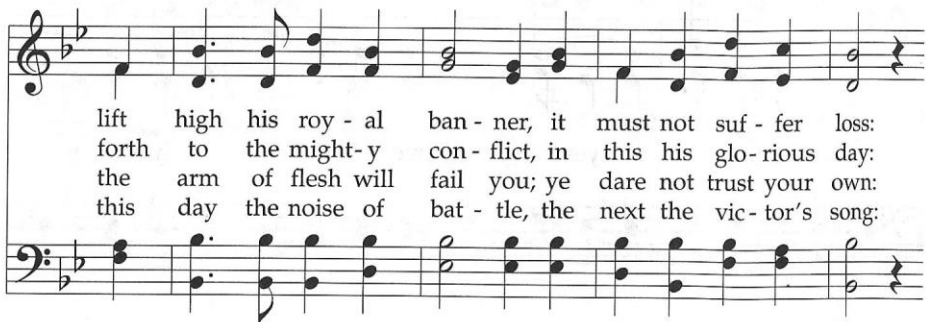
<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

<sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

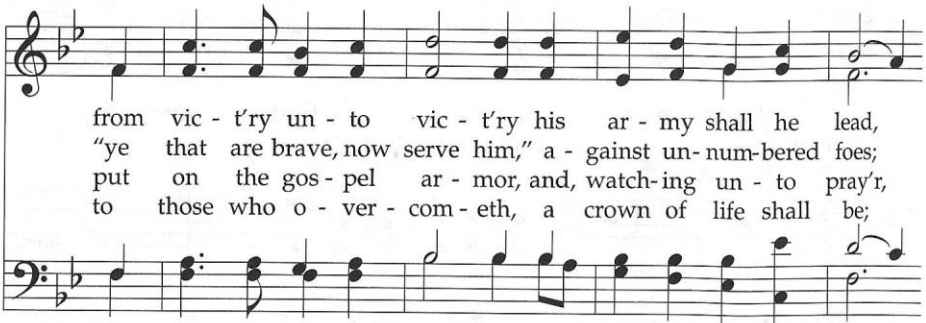
# Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus 613



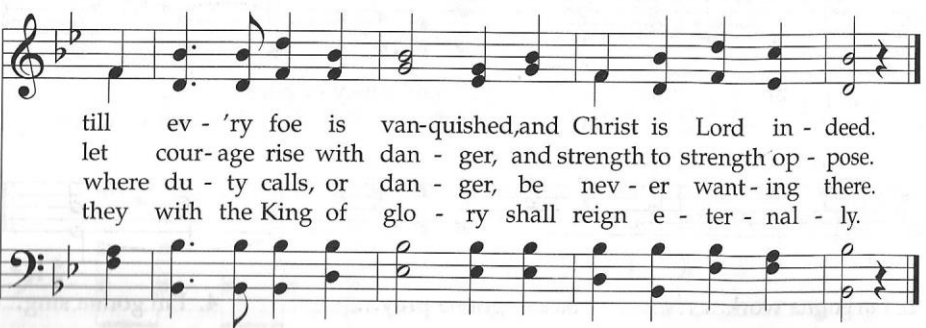
1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, ye sol - diers of the cross;  
 2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the trum - pet call o - bey;  
 3. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, stand in his strength a - lone; -  
 4. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the strife will not be long;



lift high his roy - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer loss:  
 forth to the might - y con - flict, in this his glo - rious day:  
 the arm of flesh will fail you; ye dare not trust your own:  
 this day the noise of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's song:



from vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his ar - my shall he lead,  
 "ye that are brave, now serve him," a - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
 put on the gos - pel ar - mor, and, watch - ing un - to pray'r,  
 to those who o - ver - com - eth, a crown of life shall be;



till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, and Christ is Lord in - deed.  
 let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.  
 where du - ty calls, or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.  
 they with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.