

The Falls Village Congregational Church  
September 12, 2021 10 a.m.  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* - arr. T. Birchwood

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

Call to Worship –

Eternal God, we come again, seeking, hoping, wanting to hear your word.

**We come because, despite our best efforts, we know we cannot live by bread alone.**

We come fueled by a desire too deep for words, with longings that are too infinite to express.

**We come yearning for meaning in our existence and purpose in our lives.**

We come, ready to worship the living God.

Opening Hymn – #2 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Call to Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

**Ever patient and ever-loving God: Your people wait with expectation to hear your word for them. Surprise us with the mystery of your grace that we might leave this place more confident of your life among us, more secure in your love, and more ready to serve you with heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before**

**him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us, and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, following the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Responsive Reading—Psalm 40:1-3, 9-11, p. 740.

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: Isaiah 50:4-9

Dick Heinz

Mark 1:16-20; 8:27-36

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Believing and Following”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

Anthem *Sing to the Lord* - D. Peterson

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

Hymn #344 *I Have Decided to Follow 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*

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Descant*

4. Mor-tals, join the hap - py cho - rus; stars of morn - ing, take your part;

- Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
- All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
- Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
- Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus; stars of morn - ing, take your part;

love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing those of ten - der heart. So  
 hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
 love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing those of ten - der heart.

sing - ing, move we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive our fear and doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, all who live in love are thine;  
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife,

joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.  
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

## Psalm 40:1–3, 9–11

Psalm 40:11, adapt.  
Traditional Dutch melody

RESPONSE

God, your mer-cy is up - on us as we place our trust in you.

R

- <sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the LORD,  
who inclined to me and heard my cry,  
<sup>2</sup> **who drew me up from the desolate pit,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure,**  
<sup>3</sup> who put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
**Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the LORD. R**
- <sup>9</sup> I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congregation;  
**see, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, O God.**
- <sup>10</sup> I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
**I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congregation.**
- <sup>11</sup> Do not, O God, withhold  
your mercy from me;  
**let your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
keep me safe forever. R**

*Scripture Lessons for September 12, 2021***ISAIAH 50:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

**MARK 1:16-20; 8:27-36**

<sup>6</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him...

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter

and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

*Unison*

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -  
 2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -  
 3. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go  
 4. Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low  
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -  
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will  
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.  
 Je - sus?— No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

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