

The Falls Village Congregational Church

April 24, 2022 10:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Easter

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Greeting and Welcome

Ringing of the Church Bell

Prelude *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* – arr. T. Keesecker

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (from Psalm 30)

You have turned our mourning into dancing! You have taken away our funeral clothes and re-clothed us in joy, so that our whole being—body, mind and soul—might sing praise to you and not be silent.

O Lord, our Lord, we will give thanks to you forever!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Come let us worship and celebrate the Good News!

Prayer for God’s Presence (Unison):

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Easter mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen

Hymn #215 *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, in our too small faith, we think the Easter story has nothing to do with us. In our discouragement, we think the world is headed for nothing but disaster. So, we miss the incredible news that love has triumphed over hate, goodness has defeated evil, that life has broken the power of death and the grave. Forgive us, Lord, and push aside the stone of indifference

that we have rolled across our hearts. Remind us that this old story is new every moment, that we are called by the risen Christ into the fullness of resurrection life. Amen .

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Psalm 147:1-6 p. 767

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you**

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scripture Readings

Acts 5:27-32

Linda Ryan

Luke 24:13-35

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “An Open-Ended Easter”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH

Offertory Anthem: *For the Beauty of the Earth* – arr. S. DeFord

Prayers of the People/ The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn #231 *Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us*

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

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

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain 215

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,
 3. Now the bright - est sea - son dawns with the day of splen - dor,

God hath brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
 now the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;

loosed from Phar - aoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and bleak, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.

Psalm 147:1-6

RESPONSE

Charles Wesley
 Robert Williams; harm. Carlton R. Young

Praise to God who reigns a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!

R

- 1 Praise the LORD!
 How good it is to sing praises to our God;
 for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 **The LORD builds up Jerusalem,
 and gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
- 3 God heals the brokenhearted,
 and binds up their wounds.
- 4 **God determines the number of the stars,
 and gives to all of them their names.**
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
 whose understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 **The LORD lifts up the downtrodden,
 but casts the wicked to the ground. R**

Scripture Lessons for April 24, 2022

ACTS 5:27-32

²⁷When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

LUKE 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the

people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

231 Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. Sing of one who walks be - side us and this day is
 2. We have walked with him as strang - ers through the jour - ney
 3. Ris - en one, stay with us, raise us, once a - gain the

Bb7 Dm C Dm C Bb7

liv - ing still, one who now is clos - er to us
 of the day, and have told him of the vi - o - lence
 night is near. Dine with us and share your wis - dom,

Am Bb7 C F F Dm7

than the thoughts our hearts dis - till, Christ who once up -
 that has swept our hope a - way. He has of - fered
 free our hearts from ev - 'ry fear. In the calm of

Bb7 Gm7 Bb7 Am7 Bb7 Gm7 C

on a hill - top, raised a - gainst the power of sin,
 words of com - fort, words of en - er - gy and light.
 each new eve - ning, in the fresh - ness of each dawn,

F Dm C Gm7 Am Bb7 C6 C F

died in love as his own crea - tures cru - ci - fied their God and Friend!
 Did our hearts not blaze with - in us as he broke the bread this night?
 if you hold us fast in friend - ship we will nev - er be a - lone.