

The Falls Village Congregational Church

May 1, 2022 10:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Easter

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us worship the living God in spirit and in truth.

Prayer for God's Presence:

Risen Christ, we praise you for who you are and what you have done. You are the healer; bring healing in this place. You are our righteousness; bring transformation in this place. You are the provider; increase our trust in you. You are the God who is with us; as we worship, let us enter your presence. Amen.

Hymn #229 *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving Lord, we are resurrection people who claim you are alive. And yet we confess that too often we fail to recognize your presence with us. Our days are occupied by so many tasks, worries, and diversions, and we do not see you in the midst of everything. Forgive us, we pray. Redirect our priorities, clear our vision, help us to see and follow you. Amen

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: Acts 9:1-9

Hebrews 10:32-39

Mary Atwood

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon:

“A Good Enough Christian”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation #417 *We Place Upon Thy Table, Lord*

The Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your heads

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

It is right, and a good and joyful thing

(The Minister continues the prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our individual relationship to God, but hold the cup so we may drink together, as a sign of our unity before our God)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #562 *Because He Lives*

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.

229 That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1. That Eas - ter day with joy was bright,
2. His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed;
3. O Je - sus, strong in gen - tle - ness,
4. Come, ris - en Christ, with us a - bide

the sun shone out with fair - er light,
his wound - ed hands and feet he showed
come now your - self our hearts pos - sess,
in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide;

when, to their long - ing eyes re - stored,
those scars their sol - emn wit - ness gave
that we may give you all our days
your own re - deemed for ev - er shield

the glad a - pos - tles saw their Lord.
that Christ was ris - en from the grave.
the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.

Scripture Lessons for May 1, 2022

ACTS 9:1-9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

HEBREWS 10:32-39 (Common English Bible)

³² But remember the earlier days, after you saw the light. You stood your ground while you were suffering from an enormous amount of pressure. ³³ Sometimes you were exposed to insults and abuse in public. Other times you became partners with those who were treated that way. ³⁴ You even showed sympathy toward people in prison and accepted the confiscation of your possessions with joy, since you knew that you had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵ So don't throw away your confidence—it brings a great reward. ³⁶ You need to endure so that you can receive the promises after you do God's will.

³⁷ *In a little while longer,*

the one who is coming will come and won't delay;

³⁸ *but my righteous one will live by faith,*

and my whole being won't be pleased with anyone who shrinks back.

³⁹ But we aren't the sort of people who timidly draw back and end up being destroyed. We're the sort of people who have faith so that our whole beings are preserved.

We Place upon Your Table, Lord 417

1. We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, the
 2. With - in these sim - ple things there lie the
 3. Ac - cept them, Lord, they come from you; we

food of life, the bread and wine, as sym-bols of our
 height and depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our
 take them hum-bly from your hand. These gifts of yours for

dai - ly work, ac - cord - ing to your grand de - sign.
 thoughts and toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
 high - er use we of - fer up as you com-mand.

WORDS: M. F. C. Wilson (20th century), alt.
 MUSIC: Adapt. from *Musicalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

WINCHESTER NEW
 LM
 Alt. tune: OLD HUNDREDDTH

562 Because He Lives

1. God sent his Son, they called him Je - sus;
 2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by,
 3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er;

he came to love, heal, and for - give;
 and feel the pride and joy that gives;
 I'll fight life's fi - nal war with pain;

he lived and died to buy my par - don,
 but great - er still the calm as - sur - ance,
 and then as death gives way to vic - tory,

an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.
 this child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.
 I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he reigns.

Refrain

Be- cause he lives, I can face to - mor - row;

be- cause he lives, all fear is gone;

be- cause I know he holds the fu - ture,

and life is worth the liv- ing just be- cause he lives.