

The Falls Village Congregational Church

July 3, 2022 10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude --*Jesus, Feed Us* - R. Makeever, arr. B. Wentzel

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

We gather with gratitude for our freedom to worship God.

May God continue to bless the churches in this land.

We draw near to the God who rules over all nations

May God continue to bless our country and all the countries in the world.

We seek to live in harmony and peace together with all peoples on the earth.

May God continue to establish peace on earth and help us understand that it begins in our hearts.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

Prayer for God's Presence:

God of righteousness and grace, as our nation celebrates this Independence Day, remind us of our dependence upon you. We look to you for your wisdom and mercy as important issues are discussed. We ask you to keep this nation, and all nations, under your care, that we may be peoples who are at peace, and who are a blessing to others in this earth. As we worship this day, keep us grounded not in our strength but in yours. Amen.

Hymn #721 "*My Country 'Tis of Thee*"

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Eternal God, before you nations rise and fall. We are a nation of high ideals, but confess that we have failed to achieve fully those promises and your desires. Forgive us as individuals and as a

nation. Give us a glimpse of the kingdom you are bringing to earth, where violence and racism and hunger will be no more. Teach us peace and help us to transcend all that divides or wounds the human family. Draw us together as one people who do your will, so that we may be a light to our nation and a witness to the world. In Jesus' name. 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: Psalm 33:10-22

Romans 13:1-7

The Rev. Bruce Anderson

The Rev. Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "The Christian and the Country

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation "*Come to the Table of Grace*"

Come to the table of grace, Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

2. Peace 3. Love 4. Hope 5. Joy

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: #595 "Be Thou My Vision"

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be with You till We Meet Again

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

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

721

1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4. Our *fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of lib - er - ty,

of thee I sing; land where my *fath - ers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free-dom's song; let mor - tal tongues a - wake, let all that
to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with free-dom's

pil - grims' pride, from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring,
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take, let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long,
ho - ly light; pro - tect us by thy might, Great God, our King.

* Or parents, parents'

Scripture Lessons for July 3, 2022

PSALM 33:10-22

¹⁰The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.

¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

¹³The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—

¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

¹⁶A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

¹⁸Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.

²¹Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Romans 13:1-7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing.

⁷Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Be Thou My Vision

595

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.