

The Falls Village Congregational Church  
August 14, 2022 10 a.m.  
10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson, Guest Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude *Impromptu* – F. Schubert

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

Call to Worship –

Leader We gather to worship assured that God will appear newly in this hour.

People **God comes to us in the people we meet, day by day.**

Leader God comes to us when we are alone and lost.

People **We choose to believe we have hope after disappointment.**

Leader Help thou our unbelief!

People **We declare, in spite of all appearances: God is present and manifesting the kingdom in our midst. And so it is.**

Prayer for God's Presence (Unison)

O God, we call upon the invisible cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. May their presence and our memories fill this sacred space. May we be granted a portion of Divine Wisdom when things do not go as we wish. We pledge to listen this hour with discerning hearts and we give thanks for all that has occurred this past week, for good or ill, that has brought us to this moment. Amen.

Opening Hymn #280 *God is Here!*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

One: What do we hold and treasure most?

All: **Is it the promises of God?**

One: What captivates our attention?

All: **Is it the grace of God?**

One: O God of mercy and grace,

All: **We are vulnerable people but we avoid vulnerable people.**

One: We are broken people and we turn from brokenness.

All: **Heal us, O God, that we may become Healers. Build our connections, that we may be Connectors. We are yours, loving God. Help us know this. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading – Psalm 103:1-5,11-18, p. 752-3

Gloria Patri #35 in hymnal

Passing of the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

**TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

Prayer

Sermon: **“After Disappointment, What?”**

The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

Musical Offering *For Where Love is, There is God* – D. Wagner

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

Hymn #431 *Go, My Children with My Blessing*

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.*

Welcome to our Guest Minister, The Rev. Dr. Eileen Epperson, who is leading worship while Pastor Rich is on vacation. Eileen has been with us in past years and is a Presbyterian minister (PCUSA) who's lived in Salisbury since 2003. Her ministry is life coaching which enables individuals and teams to live and work authentically in the present. This involves three practices in a Living Triangle©: forgiveness, authentic communication, and living with integrity. Eileen has degrees in literature and theology and has been active in interfaith dialogue for 40 years. She has been a college, hospital, nursing home and hospice chaplain, as well as an Interim minister in several churches. She can be found at [www.forgivenesscoaching.com](http://www.forgivenesscoaching.com) Welcome, Eileen!

## 280 God Is Here!

1. God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer  
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's  
 4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, fount, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of  
 Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants of the  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -

round us, all our var - ied skills and arts wait the  
 preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech, here, in  
 Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore what it  
 ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive; we, who

com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

# Psalm 103:1-5, 11-18

RESPONSE

Andraé Crouch

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is with -

in me, bless God's ho - ly name.

**R**

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless God's holy name.
- 2 **Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all God's benefits—**
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
- 5 **who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. R**
  
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is God's steadfast love toward those who are faithful;
- 12 **as far as the east is from the west,  
so far God removes our transgressions from us.**
- 13 As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for the faithful.
- 14 **For God knows how we were made,  
and remembers that we are dust. R**
  
- 15 As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 **for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.**
- 17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who are faithful,  
and God's righteousness to the children's children,
- 18 **to those who keep God's covenant  
and remember to do God's commandments. R**

## Scripture Lessons for Sunday, August 14, 2022

### Isaiah 5:1-7 (RSV)

#### The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

**5** Let me sing for my beloved  
a love song concerning his vineyard:  
My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.  
**2** He digged it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
and he looked for it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.  
**3** And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
judge, I pray you, between me  
and my vineyard.  
**4** What more was there to do for my vineyard,  
that I have not done in it?  
When I looked for it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?  
**5** And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.  
**6** I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and briars and thorns shall grow up;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
**7** For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
and he looked for justice,

but behold, bloodshed;  
for righteousness,  
but behold, a cry!

### Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (RSV)

#### The Faith of Other Israelite Heroes

**29** By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land; but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. **30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. **31** By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given friendly welcome to the spies. **32** And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— **33** who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **34** quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. **35** Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. **36** Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two,<sup>[a]</sup> they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— **38** of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.  
**39** And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, **40** since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.  
The Example of Jesus

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing 431

1. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;  
2. Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure,  
3. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;  
here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;  
grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.

in my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for  
here you heard my Son's dear sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort

ev - er, go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing you are my own,  
glo - ry, go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en at peace and pure.  
stilled you; go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.