

The Falls Village Congregational Church
October 23, 2022 @ 10 a.m.
20th Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson, Guest Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements
Ringing of the Bell
Prelude

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – Hymnal #262 (reading alternately)

Prayer for God's Presence (Unison)

Eternal God, Creator of the universe and everything near and dear to us in our planetary home flying through space. We know you are already in this sacred space and in our lives. We are so glad to join together this morning and give thanks for the time to ponder eternal mysteries. Make us, creatures of this time and space, willing collaborators with your endless grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn # 285 *"How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely"*

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

All: We are vulnerable people who avoid weakness. We are uncertain and awkward and pretend to be strong and wise. We turn away from uncertain and awkward people, though much of life is uncertain and ambiguous. Heal us, O God, that we may be healers in the Name of Love. Mend our rifts, that we may be Life-Builders. Cleanse our resentful thoughts, that we may release them. We are yours, loving God. Help us know this.... (silent confession)
Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading – Hymnal, p. 744, Psalm 67

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

Hymn # 485 *"Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race"*

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Prayer

Sermon: "Living Out Loud" The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Musical Offering

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn # 477 *"Pass It On"*

Benediction

Benediction Response (standing in a circle around sanctuary)

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.

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 Spiritual Life Coaching which involves the "Living Triangle" = forgiveness, authentic communication, and living with integrity. Eileen has degrees in literature and theology and has been active in interfaith dialogue for decades. She has been a college, hospital, nursing home and hospice chaplain, as well as an Interim minister in several churches. Welcome Eileen!

www.forgivenesscoaching.com

You Are the Work of God

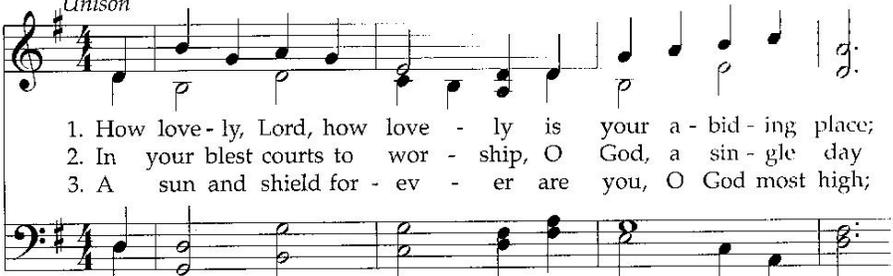
262

It is not you who shape God;
it is God that shapes you.
If then you are the work of God,
await the hand of the Artist
who does all things in due season.
Offer the Potter your heart,
soft and tractable,
and keep the form in which
the Artist has fashioned you.
Let your clay be moist,
lest you grow hard and lose
the imprint of the Potter's fingers.

Irenaeus, 2nd-century theologian

285 How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely

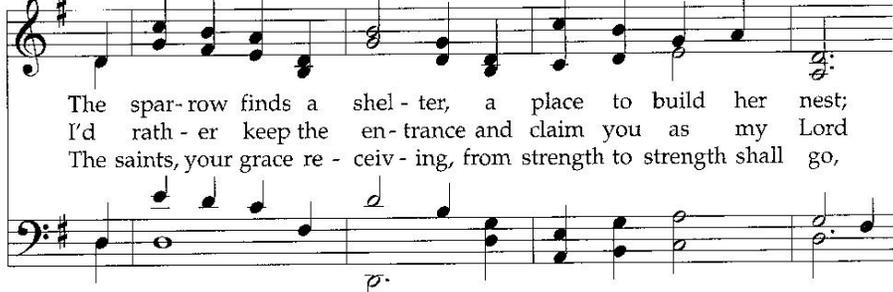
Unison



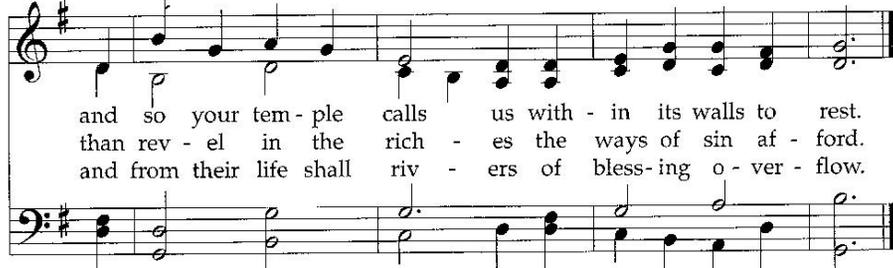
1. How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is your a - bid - ing place;
2. In your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
3. A sun and shield for - ev - er are you, O God most high;



my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on your grace.
is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from you should stray.
you show - er us with bless - ings no good will you de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim you as my Lord
The saints, your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

Psalm 67

Fred R. Anderson
Carlton R. Young

RESPONSE

Unison

O God be gra - cious, come and bless us

and on us make your face to shine.

R

- 1 O God, be gracious to us and bless us
and make your face to shine upon us,
- 2 **that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. R**
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 **The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**
- 7 May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere God. R

Scripture Readings - October 23, 2022

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

6 For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

6 At my first defense no one took my part; all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! 17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the message fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 18:9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race 485

1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we
 2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -
 3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
 4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with

come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
 nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
 Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
 gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,

meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.
 fear and hate and lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
 steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong,
 grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

WORDS: ...

Pass It On 477

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,
 2. What a won - drous time is spring when all the trees are bud - ding,
 3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi - ness that I've found -

and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;
 the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing;
 on God you can de - pend, it mat - ters not where you're bound;

that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:
 that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:
 I'll shout it from the moun - tain top, I want my world to know:

you spread God's love to ev - ery - one, you want to pass it on.
 you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
 the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.