

The Falls Village Congregational Church
January 22, 2023 10 a.m.
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements
Ringling of the Bell
Prelude

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship -

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
To behold the beauty of the Lord
And to seek him in his temple.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

O Holy One, untamed by the names we give you: We hear and say so many words, but yours is the word we most need. Speak now, and help us to listen. May your word, the living word, work within us to do all those things of which your word is capable—to quiet and to disturb us, to touch our need and break our pride, to shrink our uncertainties and enlarge our wonder. Be present, O Lord. Speak to us in this time of worship and help us to listen. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #322 “O Word of God Incarnate”

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Lord our God: we have failed to do your will. We have lived in fear and refused to be free in Christ. Forgive our lack of confidence in you, our lack of hope in your reign, our lack of faith in your presence. We have gone our own way too often and failed to find peace. Forgive us, and restore us to your covenant, that we might be strong with the vitality of your Holy Spirit, for you are our Savior and our God. Amen.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 119:1-8, p. 759.
Gloria Patri #35 in hymnal
Passing the Peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you
And also, with you
Let us pass the peace

Scripture: Isaiah 55:6-11 Kay Blass
2 Timothy 3:10-17 Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Another Look at the Old Book”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory -
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #618 “How Firm a Foundation”

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be with You till We Meet Again

Your tithes and offerings may be left in the plates at either entrance to the sanctuary.

O Word of God Incarnate 322

1. O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2. The church from you, our Sav - ior, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
 3. O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light as of old.

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 Your word is chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age,
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you,
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, we see you face to face.

Psalm 119:1-8

RESPONSE

Amy Grant (Ps. 119:105)
 Michael W. Smith; arr. Keith Phillips

Unison
 Thy word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

- R**
- 1 Happy are those whose way is blameless,
 who walk in the law of God.
 - 2 **Happy are those who keep God's decrees,
 who seek God with their whole heart,**
 who also do no wrong,
 but walk in God's ways.
 - 4 **You have commanded your precepts
 to be kept diligently. R**
 - 5 O that my ways may be steadfast
 in keeping your statutes!
 - 6 **Then I shall not be put to shame,
 having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**
 - 7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
 when I learn your righteous ordinances.
 - 8 **I will observe your statutes;
 do not utterly forsake me. R**

Scripture Lessons for January 22, 2023

ISAIAH 55:6-11

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

¹⁰Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹²Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

How Firm a Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,

1. is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
 2. for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.
 3. the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 4. my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply.
 5. I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

1. What more can be said than to you God has said,
 2. I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 3. for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 4. The flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 5. that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

1. to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
 2. up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 3. and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 4. thy dross to consume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 5. I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"