

The Falls Village Congregational Church
February 12, 2023 10 a.m.
6th Sunday after Epiphany
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude - *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling* - arr. C. Callahan

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship –

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,

Your faithfulness to the skies.

Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,

Your justice like the great deep.

You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

We celebrate your incredible love today as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

God of love—Father, Son and Holy Spirit: You loved us before we ever knew you. Give us such a deep love for you, that we can see the world as you see it, feel the compassion you feel, and be a people whose lives facilitate your love to others. So, open our eyes that we might see what the Good Shepherd saw. Grant us the insight to see the need in others, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it. Amen

Opening Hymn: #517 *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have built up walls to protect ourselves from those we do not like, but those walls also

shut us off from receiving your love. Forgive us. Break down those walls. Help us to see that the way to your heart is through the reconciliation of our own hearts and the willingness to grow in love for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 23, p. 734 (response 1).

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: Hosea 11

Dick Heinz

I Corinthians 13:4-7

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The Patience of Love”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory - *For Where God Is, There is Love* - D. Wagner

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #526 *“The Gift of Love”*

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.

517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in - to ev - ery trou-bled breast;
 3. Come, al-might - y to de-liv-er, let us all thy life re-ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less let us be,

fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom-ised rest;
 sud-den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem-ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re-stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com-pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;
 take a - way our love of sin-ning; al - pha and o - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo-ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem-bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray, and praise thee with-out ceas-ing, glo - ry in thy per-fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise.

Psalm 23

Isaac Watts, alt.
 J. L. Macbeth Bain

RESPONSE 1

My Shep-herd, you sup - ply my need and ho-ly is your name.

RESPONSE 2

Marty Haugen

Unison

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

R

1 The LORD is my shepherd,
 I shall not want.
 2 **He makes me lie down in
 green pastures;**
 he leads me beside still waters;
 3 he restores my soul.
**He leads me in right paths
 for his name's sake.**
 4 Even though I walk through the
 darkest valley,
 I fear no evil;
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff—
 they comfort me. R

5 You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my
 enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall
 follow me
 all the days of my life,
**and I shall dwell in the house of
 the LORD for ever. R**

Scripture Lessons for February 12, 2023

HOSEA 11:1-11

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ²The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. ³Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. ⁵They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. ⁶The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. ⁷My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all.

⁸How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. ⁹I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. ¹⁰They shall go after the LORD, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. ¹¹They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

I CORINTHIANS 13: 4-7

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

The Gift of Love

526

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;

as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.