

The Falls Village Congregational Church
February 19, 2023 10 a.m.
Transfiguration Sunday
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements
Ringling of the Bell
Prelude - *Courante* - H. Purcell

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship –
We come as the joyful,
we come as the eager,
we come as the thankful,
we come as the recipients of amazing grace.
The love of God overflows our hearts,
The grace of Christ liberates our spirits,
The joy of the Spirit sings in our minds.
Come, blessed Trinity, and empower our worship.

Opening Prayer (Unison):
God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts
to love you and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit
that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in
truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #75 *“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”*

Prayer of Confession
We confess, O God, that we are attracted to false gods and
easy answers in life. We are vulnerable to temptations that could
damage us in ways that are not obvious. Forgive us that sin that
draws us like moths to a flame. Spare us from the tendency to
excuse in ourselves behavior we would not excuse in others.
Restore us, transform us from the inside out, fill us with godly

resolve, that might love you and neighbor with our heart, mind,
soul, and strength. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 42, p. 740
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 46:3-4, 9-11 Susan Kelsey
II Corinthians 12:1-10 Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer
Sermon: “Hallowing One’s Diminishments”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory - *I Will Extol You, O My Lord* - A. D. Miller
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #628 *“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”*
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.

75 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Unison

1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 3. When you heard the won - der of the word I was
 5. In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 7. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.

2. I was there when you were but a child, with a
 4. If you find some - one to share your time and you
 6. When the eve - ning gen - tly clos - es in and you

faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

Psalm 42

Psalm 42:1
 Don E. Saliers, alt.

Unison

As the deer longs for the wa-ter-brook, so my soul yearns for you, O God. God.

R

¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

**When shall I come and behold
the face of God?**

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
**while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”** R

⁴ These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
**how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,**
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.** R

My soul is cast down within me;
**therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.**

⁷ Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
**all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.**

⁸ By day you command your steadfast love,
and at night your song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life. R

⁹ I say to God, my rock,
**“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?”**

¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
**while they say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”**

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
**Hope in God whom I shall again praise,
my help and my God.** R

Scripture Lessons for February 19, 2023

ISAIAH 46:3-4, 9-11

³ Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb; ⁴ even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save... ⁹ Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, “My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my intention,” ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man for my purpose from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have planned, and I will do it.

II CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al - most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.