

The Falls Village Congregational Church

February 26, 2023 10 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude - *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* - arr. M. Larkin

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship –

We come to worship God, bringing our stories, our lives, and our whole selves.

We come with our faith and our doubts, with our hopes and our fears.

We come as we are, invited by God who will never turn us away.

We come knowing that we--and all--are welcome.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Opening Hymn: #180 “*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*”

Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you in our thinking, in our speaking, and in our actions. We have not loved ourselves, our neighbors or you with our whole heart and mind and strength. In your mercy forgive what we have been, and redirect what we shall be, so that we may live fully in your will and walk humbly in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

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

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: Genesis 3:1-8

Linda Ryan

Matthew 4:1-11

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Tempted!”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* - arr. S. DeFord

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #464 “*God of Grace and God of Glory*”

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.

180 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
 2. As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
 3. And thro' these days of pen - i- tence, and thro' your pas-sion - tide,
 4. A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,

teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con-quer sin.
 for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ with us a - bide.
 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

Psalm 103:1-5, 11-18

RESPONSE

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

Andraé Crouch

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 February 26, 2023

GENESIS 3:1-8

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’”² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. ⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

God of Grace and God of Glory 464

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride 'to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; fill our lives that
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

1. pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 2. sail thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us,
 3. thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 4. we may be strength - ened with all Christ - like gra - ces
 5. we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

1. bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 2. free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 3. rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 4. pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 5. be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

1. for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 2. for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 3. lest we miss thy righ - teous goal, lest we miss thy righ - teous goal.
 4. lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.
 5. serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.