

The Falls Village Congregational Church

March 19, 2023 10 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - *Rondo* - M. Clementi

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (Isaiah 43: 1,6)

Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name.

You are mine, says the Lord.

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth,

Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

: **Opening Prayer (Unison):**

Grant, O God, that we may never grudge any time that we give to you, but that we may always be grateful to hear your word, glad to sing your praises, ready to hear your truth, eager to come before you in prayer. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #23 “Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven”

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our blindness and our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed your word, denying your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness. Forgive us, we pray. Cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and recreate in us your image; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 116: 1-9, 12-17, p. 756

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: John 9:1-17

Sara Wardell

John 9:18-41

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Blinders”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Day by Day* - M. How

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #546 “*Amazing Grace*”

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.

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en, glad of heart your
 2. Praise to God for grace and fav - or shown to all who
 3. Moth - er - like, God tends and spares us, know - ing well our
 4. Frail as sum - mer's flower we flour - ish: blows the wind, and
 5. An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion you who see God

1. car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 2. are op - pressed. God shows stead - fast love for - ev - er,
 3. frag - ile frame. Fath - er - like, God gent - ly bears us,
 4. it is gone. But, while mor - tals rise and per - ish,
 5. face to face; sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

1. who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. ten - der - heart - ed, slow to blame. Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. God's com - pass - ion still lives on. Al - le - lu - ia!
 5. dwell - ers all in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all our days.
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me praise God's name!
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the high e - ter - nal One!
 5. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Psalm 116:1-9, 12-17

Psalm 116:13-14, adapt.

David L. Edwards; arr. Charlotte Quarles

RESPONSE

Unison C Am Dm G C Am
 I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion, I will call on your name, O

Dm G C F Dm G C
 God. I will wor - ship you with all the peo - ple of faith.

R

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard
my voice and my supplications.
² **Because you listened to me,**
I will call on you as long as I live.
³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
⁴ **Then I called on the name of the LORD:**
"O LORD, I pray, save my life!"
⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
⁶ **The LORD protects the simple;**
when I was brought low, God saved me.
⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
⁹ **I walk before the LORD**
in the land of the living. R

¹² What shall I return to the LORD
for all God's bounty to me?
¹³ **I will lift up the cup of salvation**
and call on the name of the LORD,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.
¹⁵ **Precious in the sight of the LORD**
is the death of the faithful.
¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid.
You have loosed my bonds.
¹⁷ **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice**
and call on the name of the LORD. R

Scripture Lessons for March 19, 2023

JOHN 9:1-17

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

JOHN 9:18-41

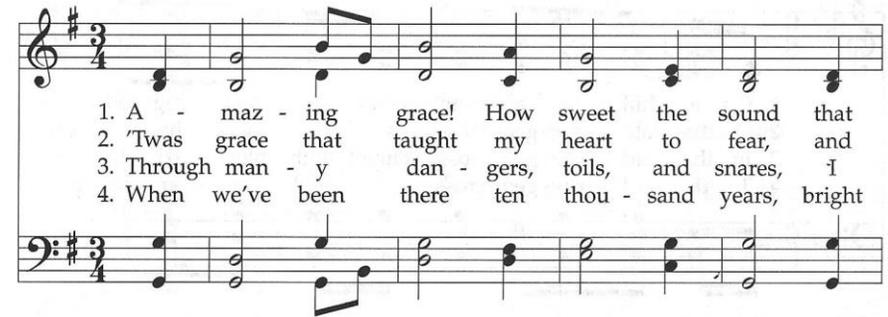
¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped him.

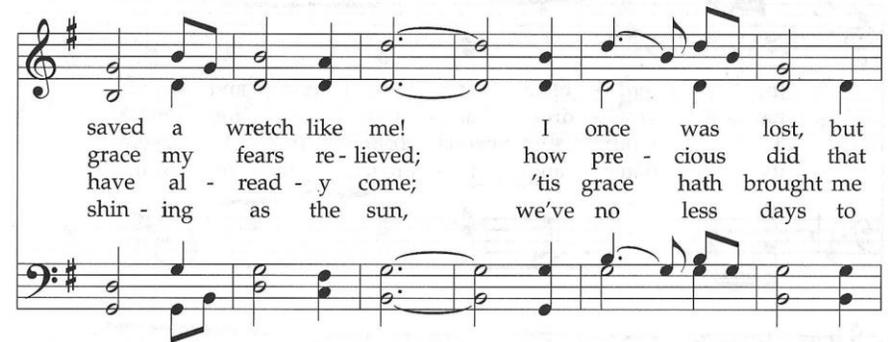
³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Amazing Grace!

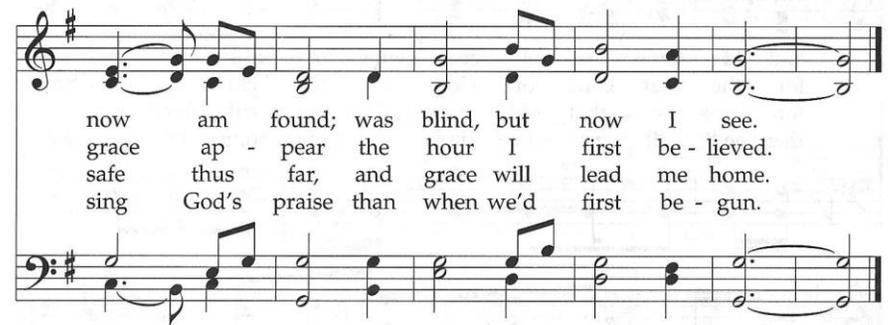
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1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous
MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN
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