

The Falls Village Congregational Church

March 26, 2023 10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (Psalm 46:1-3)

God is our refuge and our strength, a present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

Though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains
tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Gracious God, you show yourself in Jesus Christ. You are the peace of all things calm. You are the light that shines in the dark. You are the door that opens wide, and the guest who waits inside. You are the way, the truth, the life, our Savior. We welcome you and invite you to be the one who leads us in worship and the one who we worship. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #24 *“The God of Abraham Praise”*

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to show us the way, teach us the truth, and give us abundant life. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves as pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 130, p. 762

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 11:1-27

John 11:28-45

Maria Bulson

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon:

“If Only You Had Been There”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory –

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #195 *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

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.

The God of Abraham Praise

24

1. The God of A-braham praise. All prais-ed be the Name,
 2. God's spir - it flow-ing free, high surg-ing where it will—
 3. God has e - ter - nal life im - plant-ed in the soul.

who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;
 in proph-et's word it spoke of old— is speak - ing still.
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

the one e - ter - nal God, ere all that now ap - pears,
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change-less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be the Name,

the First, the Last, be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, or land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!

Psalm 130

David Goodrich
 Gary Chamberlain

RESPONSE

From the depths I cry to you; God, lis - ten to my voice.

R

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
- 2 **Lord, hear my voice!**
 Let your ears be attentive
 to the voice of my supplications!
- 3 **If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,**
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you,
 so that you may be revered.
- 5 **I wait for you, my soul waits,**
and in your word I hope. R
- 6 My soul waits for the Lord
 more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD!
 For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
 and with God is great power to redeem.
- 8 **It is God who will redeem Israel**
from all its iniquities. R

Scripture Lessons for March 26, 2023

JOHN 11:1-27

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

JOHN 11: 28-45

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 195

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.