

The Falls Village Congregational Church

March 5, 2023 10:00 a.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude -- *Jesus, Feed Us* - B. Wentzel

### THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship ( from Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from  
this time on and forevermore.**

Let us worship God.

Prayer for God's Presence:

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come: Be present among us, that we may draw strength from the faith of those who have gone before us, that we may serve you and our neighbors with gladness all our lives, and that we may be numbered among the saints who will dwell with you in glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #53 "*Morning Has Broken*"

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Merciful God: we confess that we have often failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not trusted in you in the things that matter, we have turned a deaf ear to the cries of the needy. Forgive us, we pray, and free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

### TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: Genesis 12:1-5

John 3:1-17

Tracy Atwood

Rich Reifsnnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "If I Tell You of Heavenly Things"

### TO RESPOND IN FAITH

#### *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation #386 "*We Come as Guests Invited*"

The Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your heads

**We lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing**

(The Minister continues the prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our individual relationship to God, but hold the cup so we may drink

together, as a sign of our unity before our God)

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

**Closing Hymn: #556 "Trust and Obey"**

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response**

*God Be with You till We Meet Again*

.....  
*You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.*

**Morning Has Broken**

The musical score for "Morning Has Broken" is presented in three systems. Each system includes a vocal line, a piano accompaniment line, and guitar chords. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black - bird has  
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet  
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

## *Scripture Lessons for March 5, 2023*

### *GENESIS 12: 1-5*

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

### *JOHN 3:1-17*

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

# We Come as Guests Invited 386

1. We come as guests in - vit - ed when Je - sus bids us dine,  
 2. We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing from Christ the grace we need,  
 3. One bread is ours for shar - ing, one sin - gle fruit - ful vine,

his friends on earth u - nit - ed to share the bread and wine;  
 and in our hearts be - liev - ing on him by faith we feed;  
 our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing re - newed in bread and wine:

the bread of life is bro - ken, the wine is free - ly poured  
 with won - der and thanks - giv - ing for love that knows no end,  
 re - newed, sus - tained, and giv - en by to - ken, sign, and word,

for us, in sol - emn to - ken of Christ our dy - ing Lord.  
 we find in Je - sus liv - ing our ev - er - pres - ent friend.  
 the pledge and seal of heav - en, the love of Christ our Lord.

# 556 Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
 2. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share,  
 3. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love  
 4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet,

what a glo - ry he sheds on our way!  
 but our toil he will rich - ly re - pay;  
 un - til all on the al - tar we lay;  
 or we'll walk by his side in the way;

While we do his good will, he a - bides with us still,  
 not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
 for the fa - vor he shows, for the joy he be - stows,  
 what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;

and with all who will trust and o - bey.  
 but is blest if we trust and o - bey.  
 are for them who will trust and o - bey.  
 nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

Refrain



Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er way to be



hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.