

The Falls Village Congregational Church

April 30, 2023 10 a.m.

4th Sunday of Easter

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude - *Courante* - G. F. Handel

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship –

Here we are Lord,

Gathered together to praise you and worship you.

This is your day and we thank you for giving it to us.

Help us to remember that each day is a blessing

Be with us and let us feel your spirit in this place.

And hold us close to you each day of our lives.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

O God, lead us in our worship today, that our lips might praise you, our lives might bless you, and our thoughts might glorify your name. Knowing that you always hear us, help us to hear you. In the name of the risen Lord Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #215 “*Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*”

Prayer of Confession

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we find it easier to follow the crowd than to follow you. We seek the praise of others, rather than seeking to give you joy with our faithfulness. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry. Grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 122, p. 761.

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: Acts 2:22-24, 42-47

Larry Bulson

John 9:39:10:16

Rich Reifsnnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Does Everyone Get to Heaven?”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Song of Fellowship* - Besig and Price

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #73 “*There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*” (to tune of #14)

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.

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain 215

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,
 3. Now the bright - est sea - son dawns with the day of splen - dor,

God hath brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
 now the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;

loosed from Phar - aoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and bleak, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion

led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.

Psalm 122

RESPONSE

Leona von Brethorst
 Arr. Ken Barker

God has made me glad, God has made me glad, I

will re - joice, for God has made me glad.

R

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,
 "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
- 2 **Our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- 3 Jerusalem—built as a city
 that is bound firmly together.
- 4 **To it the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the LORD,
 as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**
- 5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
 the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 "May they prosper who love you.
- 7 **Peace be within your walls,
 and security within your towers."**
- 8 For the sake of my relatives and friends
 I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 9 **For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
 I will seek your good. R**

Scripture Lessons for April 30, 2023

ACTS 2: 22-24, 42-47

²²“You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

JOHN 9:39-10:16

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.

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy . 73

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The treble staff features a vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
and our lives would be il - lu - mined by the pres - ence of our Lord.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It includes a treble staff with lyrics and a bass staff with accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.