

**The Falls Village Congregational Church**

**May 14, 2023 10 a.m.**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader**

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Ring of the Bell**

**Prelude - Morning Prayer - N. Palmer**

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

**Call to Worship** –(from Psalm 84)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts.

**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord.**

My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise**

**Opening Prayer (Unison):**

**Lord God, giver of life: Satisfy our questing spirits in him who is the image of your glory, the light which does not fail, the life which does not die, our Lord Jesus Christ. Draw near to us in love, as we now draw near to you, that we might be obedient to the heavenly vision, and share daily in the risen life of your son, in the worship of our hearts and in the work of our hands. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: #56 “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, we come to you acknowledging the lack of peace in our households. We have been impatient with those closest to us and have held unrealistic expectations of one another. We have chosen not to take the risks that lead to healing. We have failed to see opportunities for peacemaking which you set before us. Forgive us, O God, and open our eyes to the possibilities and promises of your peace. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 96, p. 748.

**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 17:22-31

Lynn Reifsnyder

John 14:23-29

Rich Reifsnyder

**Prayer**

**Sermon:** “Personal Peace and Beyond”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

**Offertory – Think on These Things - M. Patterson**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

**Hymn - #676 “O God of Love, O Power of Peace”**

**Benediction**

**Benediction Response- God Be with You till We Meet Again**

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Your tithes and offerings may be left in the plates at either entrance to the sanctuary.

# For the Beauty of the Earth

56

1. For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,  
 2. For the beau-ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,  
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 5. For thy church that ev-er-more lift-eth ho-ly hands a-bove,

1. for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 2. hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 3. for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight,  
 4. friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 5. of-fering up on ev-ery shore one pure sa-cri-fice of love,

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864  
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

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 77.77.77

# Psalm 96

Psalm 96:1

## RESPONSE

Unison F Gm F Bb F Bb C Bb F

O sing a new song to God, sing to God, sing all the earth.

## R

- 1 O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 **Sing to the LORD, bless God's name;**  
**proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare God's glory among the nations,  
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
- 4 **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;**  
**to be revered above all gods.**
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.
- 6 **Honor and majesty are before the LORD;**  
**in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty. R**
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
**ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due that name;  
bring an offering, and come into God's courts.
- 9 **Worship the LORD in holy splendor;**  
**tremble before God, all the earth. R**
- 10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!  
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
God will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 **Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;**  
**let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**
- 12 **let the field exult, and everything in it.**  
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- 13 before the LORD, who is coming to judge the earth.  
**The LORD will judge the world with righteousness,**  
**and the peoples with truth. R**

## *Scripture Lessons for May 14, 2023*

### *ACTS 17: 22-31*

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

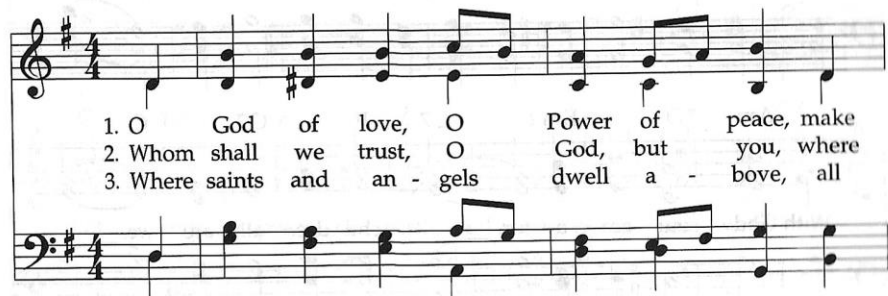
### *JOHN 14:23-31*

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

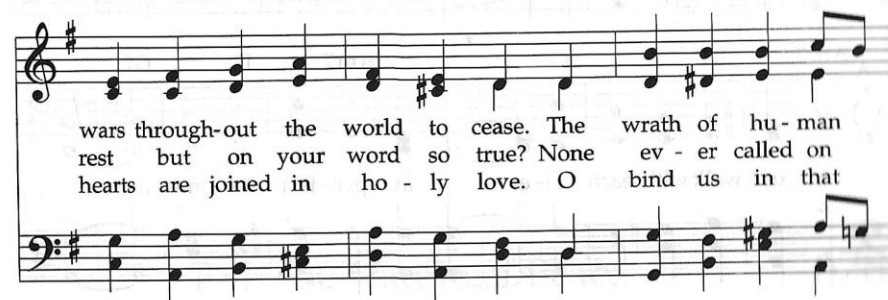
<sup>25</sup>”I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

<sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.


# O God of Love, O Power of Peace 676



1. O God of love, O Power of peace, make  
2. Whom shall we trust, O God, but you, where  
3. Where saints and an - gels dwell a - bove, all



wars through-out the world to cease. The wrath of hu - man  
rest but on your word so true? None ev - er called on  
hearts are joined in ho - ly love. O bind us in that



sin re - strain—give peace, O God, give peace a - gain!  
you in vain—give peace, O God, give peace a - gain!  
heav'n-ly chain—give peace, O God, give peace a - gain!