

The Falls Village Congregational Church
July 23, 2023 10 a.m.
8th Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements
Ring of the Bell

Prelude - *The Lord's My Shepherd* (Brother James' Air) –
arr. L. Shackley

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (Based on Psalms 42 and 139)

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
So longs my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
For you formed my inward parts,
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Lord, we come to church to be with you, to praise you, and to learn from you. During our time of worship, help us to focus. Enable us to hear what you have to say to us. Teach us. Even when your word is hard, give us the grace to receive your word, to celebrate your community, to grow in faith, and to deepen our discipleship. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #78 “*The Lord's My Shepherd*”

Prayer of Confession

O God, we live and move and have our being in you. Yet always in the midst of this creation glory, we see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness. Around us in the earth, sea and sky, we see carelessness in the care of your world; beside us we see in the broken, the hungry, and the poor, the betrayal of one another; often, deep within us, we see a striving against your Spirit. O

Trinity of love, forgive us that we may forgive one another. Heal us that we may be a people of healing. Renew us that we may be makers of peace. Amen
Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 8, p. 728

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: Genesis 29:31-30:24
Matthew 13:24-30

Jack Wilcox

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “So You Think Your Family is Tough”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Song of Fellowship* - Besig and Price

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #592 “*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*”

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 Lord's My Shepherd

Descant

5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall

1. The Lord's my shep - herd; I'll not want. God
 2. My soul thou dost re - store a - gain and
 3. Yea, though I walk in death's deep vale, yet
 4. My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in
 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall

sure - ly fol - low me, and in God's house for -

1. makes me down to lie in pas - tures green, and
 2. me to walk dost make with - in the paths of
 3. I will fear no ill. For thou art with me
 4. pres - ence of my foes; my head thou dost a -
 5. sure - ly fol - low me, and in God's house for -

ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

1. lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 2. righ - teous - ness e'en for thine own name's sake.
 3. and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 4. noint with oil and my cup o - ver - flows.
 5. ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

Psalm 8

Johann J. Schütz; tr. Frances E. Cox
 Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*

RESPONSE

Unison

Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the

God of all cre - a - tion.

R

- 1 O LORD, our God,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory above the heavens.
- 2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
 to silence the enemy and the avenger. R
- 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
- 4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
- 5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor. R
- 6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
- 7 all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
- 8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- 9 O LORD, our God,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! R

Scripture Lessons for July 9, 2023

GENESIS 29:31-30:24

³¹When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. ³²Leah conceived and bore a son, and she named him Reuben; for she said, “Because the LORD has looked on my affliction; surely now my husband will love me.” ³³She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also”; and she named him Simeon. ³⁴Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be joined to me, because I have borne him three sons”; therefore he was named Levi. ³⁵She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD”; therefore she named him Judah; then she ceased bearing.

When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister; and she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I shall die!” ²Jacob became very angry with Rachel and said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?” ³Then she said, “Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, that she may bear upon my knees and that I too may have children through her.” ⁴So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife; and Jacob went in to her. ⁵And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. ⁶Then Rachel said, “God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son”; therefore she named him Dan. ⁷Rachel’s maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. ⁸Then Rachel said, “With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and have prevailed”; so she named him Naphtali. ⁹When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. ¹⁰Then Leah’s maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son. ¹¹And Leah said, “Good fortune!” so she named him Gad. ¹²Leah’s maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. ¹³And Leah said, “Happy am I! For the women will call me happy”; so she named him Asher.

¹⁴In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son’s mandrakes.” ¹⁵But she said to her, “Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son’s mandrakes also?” Rachel said, “Then he may lie with you tonight for your son’s mandrakes.” ¹⁶When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him, and said, “You must come in to me; for I have hired you with my son’s mandrakes.” So he lay with her that night. ¹⁷And God heeded Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸Leah said, “God has given me my hire because I gave my maid to my husband”; so she named him Issachar. ¹⁹And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰Then Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good dowry; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons”; so she named him Zebulun. ²¹Afterwards she bore a daughter, and named her Dinah. ²²Then God remembered Rachel, and God heeded her and opened her womb. ²³She conceived and bore a son, and said, “God has taken away my reproach”; ²⁴and she named him Joseph, saying, “May the LORD add to me another son!”

MATTHEW 11:25-30

²⁴He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will

pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

Fine

in my heart, I will pray.

1. Up - on the moun - tain, my Lord
2. Jor - dan Riv - er chil - ly and
3. I have heart - ache, I have

spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke. All a -
cold, chills the bod - y, not the soul. Ain't but
woe, I have trou - ble here be - low. While God

D.C.

round me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine.
one train on this track, runs to heav - en and right back.
leads me I'll not fear, I am shel - tered by God's care.