

The Falls Village Congregational Church
July 30, 2023 10 a.m.
9th Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - *Sellenger's Round and Variations* - W. Byrd

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (Exodus 15:2)

The Lord is my strength and my song

The one who has become my salvation.

This is my God whom I will praise.

My father's God whom I will exalt.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Grant, o God, that we may never begrudge any time that we give to you, but that we may always be grateful to hear your word, glad to sing your praise, ready to listen to your truth, eager to pray to you. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #286 "*This is the Day*"
followed by #114 "*Thou Art Worthy*" (2x each)

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, our self-centered nature is always before us. We limp around altars we have made to false gods and sacrifice ourselves for that which cannot satisfy. We turn to idols to meet our deepest needs. Forgive us, O God, and remind us that you are the provider of all we need. You give us life so that we may serve and enjoy you forever. Open our hearts to your generous nature so that we may give from the abundance of your grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 16:5-11 p. 730

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 31:1-16, 43-50
Matthew 13:44-52

Terry Ryan
Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "Dealing with Difficult People"
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *It's My Desire* - F. Bagley and H. Boyer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #560 "*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*"

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.

This Is the Day

286

Unison

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

114

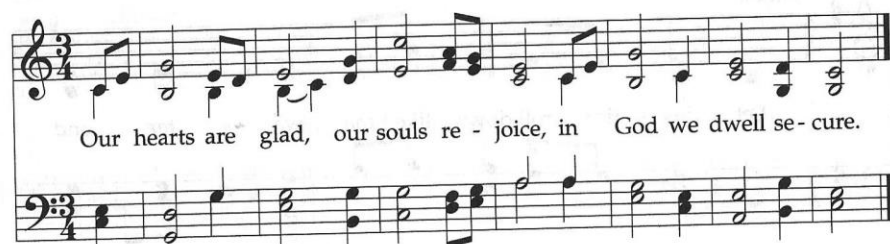
Thou Art Worthy

Thou art wor-thy, thou art wor-thy, thou art wor-thy, O Lord, to re-ceive glo-ry, glo-ry and hon-or, glo-ry and hon-or and power; for thou hast cre-at-ed, hast all things cre-at-ed, thou hast cre-at-ed all things; and for thy plea-sure they are cre-at-ed, for thou art wor-thy, O Lord.

Psalm 16:5-11

Fred R. Anderson
Southern Harmony

RESPONSE



R

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ **I keep the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.** R

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ **For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
**In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.** R

Scripture Lessons for July 30, 2023

GENESIS 31:1-16, 43-50

Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, “Jacob has taken all that was our father’s; he has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.” ²And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him as favorably as he did before. ³Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your ancestors and to your kindred, and I will be with you.” ⁴So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was, ⁵and said to them, “I see that your father does not regard me as favorably as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶You know that I have served your father with all my strength; ⁷yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not permit him to harm me. ⁸If he said, ‘The speckled shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore speckled; and if he said, ‘The striped shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore striped. ⁹Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father, and given them to me. ¹⁰During the mating of the flock I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats that leaped upon the flock were striped, speckled, and mottled. ¹¹Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am!’ ¹²And he said, ‘Look up and see that all the goats that leap on the flock are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and return to the land of your birth.’” ¹⁴Then Rachel and Leah answered him, “Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father’s house? ¹⁵Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has been using up the money given for us. ¹⁶All the property that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children; now then, do whatever God has said to you.” ¹⁷So Jacob arose, and set his children and his wives on camels; ¹⁸and he drove away all his livestock, all the property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan....

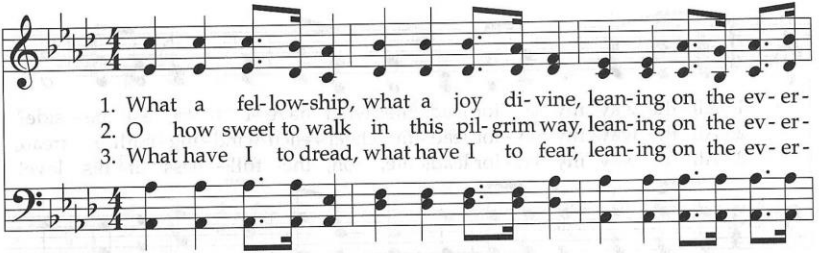
⁴³Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about their children whom they have borne? ⁴⁴Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I; and let it be a witness between you and me.” ⁴⁵So Jacob took a stone,

and set it up as a pillar. ⁴⁶And Jacob said to his kinsfolk, “Gather stones,” and they took stones, and made a heap; and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. ⁴⁸Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he called it Galeed, ⁴⁹and the pillar Mizpah, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other. ⁵⁰If you ill-treat my daughters, or if you take wives in addition to my daughters, though no one else is with us, remember that God is witness between you and me.” ⁵¹Then Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and see the pillar, which I have set between you and me. ⁵²This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. ⁵³May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor” —the God of their father—“judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, ⁵⁴and Jacob offered a sacrifice on the height and called his kinsfolk to eat bread; and they ate bread and tarried all night in the hill country. ⁵⁵Early in the morning Laban rose up, and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them; then he departed and returned home.

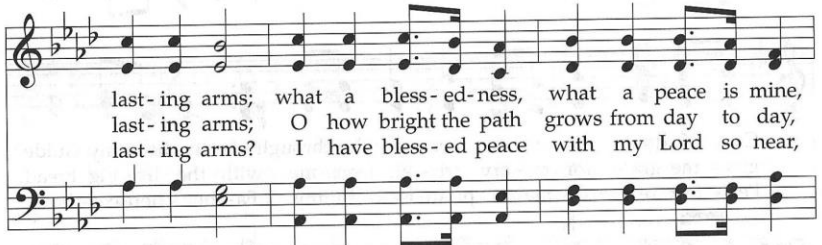
MATTHEW 13:44-52

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

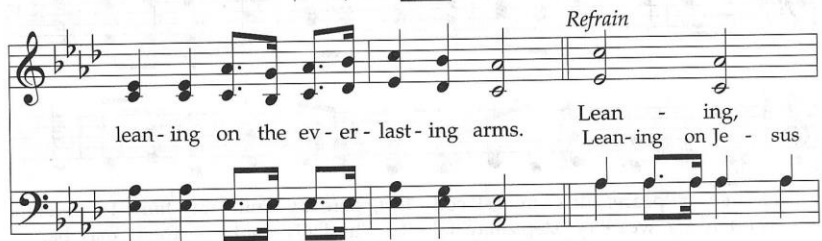
560 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



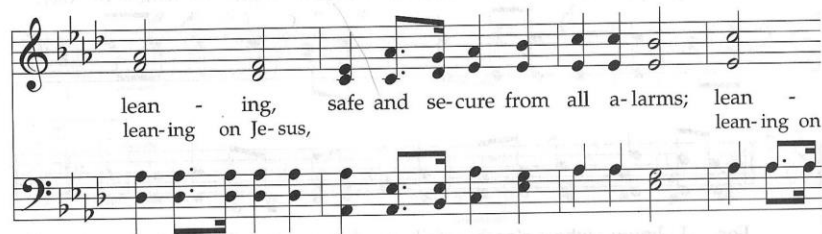
1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-



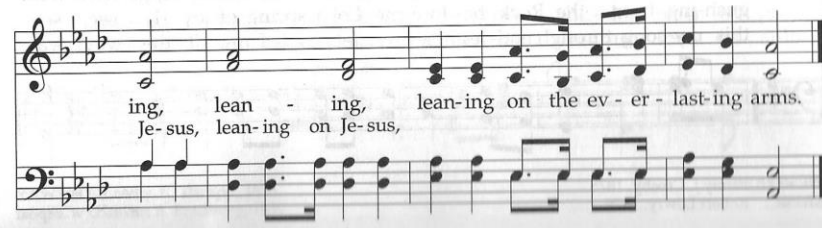
last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,



Refrain
 lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus



lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing
 lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on



ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,