

The Falls Village Congregational Church
August 13, 2023 10 a.m.
11th Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - *To God Be the Glory* - arr. J. Carter

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (from Deuteronomy 19)

The Lord has set before us life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore, may we choose life,

that we and our descendants shall live

Loving the Lord our God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

O Jesus, living Lord: you come to us at whatever place we may be in our spiritual journey. You are always waiting for us, ready to welcome us, ready to respond to us who are carrying heavy burdens and who need rest for our souls, and to us who need inspiration to live vital lives worthy of your calling. Be with us, so that at whatever place we may be, you will lift our hearts into your healing and transforming love. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #72 *“To God Be the Glory*

Prayer of Confession

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 loved our neighbors and have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray, and free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 15, p.768

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 37:12-36
Matthew 14:22-33

Mary Atwood
Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The Reuben Option”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* - S. DeFord

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #465 *“We Are Called to Follow Jesus”*

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.

To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done! So loved he the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - ery be -
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re -

world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing thru Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er, and

tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

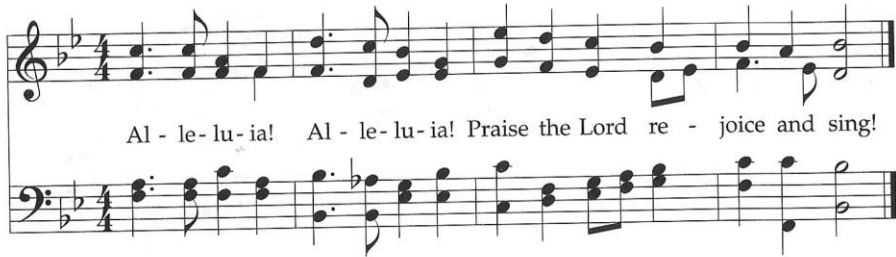
Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther thru

Je - sus the Son, and give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done!

Psalm 150

Charles Wesley
Henry T. Smart

RESPONSE



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Lord re - joice and sing!

R

- 1 Praise God!
Praise God in the sanctuary;
praise God in the mighty firmament!
- 2 Praise God for mighty deeds;
praise God for exceeding greatness!
- 3 Praise God with trumpet sound;
praise God with lute and harp!
- 4 Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe!
- 5 Praise God with clanging cymbals;
praise God with loud clashing cymbals!
- 6 Let everything that breathes praise God!
Praise God! R

Scripture Lessons for August 13, 2023

GENESIS 37: 12-28

¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶"I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph

up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

MATTHEW 14: 22-33

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of

God."

465 We Are Called to Follow Jesus

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

Unison Em C D G Am7 D G Bm

1. When pain of the world sur-rounds us and fills us with des - pair,
 2. We see with fear and trem - bling our ach-ing world in need,
 3. The church is a ho - ly ves - sel the liv-ing wa-ters fill
 4. We praise you for our jour - ney and your a - bun-dant grace,

Em Am D Em G Am Bm

when search-ing just con-founds us with false hopes ev - 'ry - where,
 con - fess-ing to each oth - er our waste-ful - ness and greed.
 to nour-ish all its peo - ple God's pur-pose to ful - fill.
 your sav-ing word that guid - ed a strug-gling hu-man race.

G D Cmaj7 Am Dsus D

when lives are starved for mean - ing and des - ti - ny is bare,
 May we with stead-fast car - ing the hun-gry chil-dren feed.
 May we with hum-ble cour - age be o - pen to God's will.
 O God with all cre - a - tion, your fu-ture we em - brace.

Em D C Am Gmaj7 Cmaj7 Am Em

we are called to fol-low Je - sus and let God's heal-ing
 We are called to fol-low Je - sus and let God's jus-tice
 We are called to fol-low Je - sus and let God's Spir-it
 We are called to fol-low Je - sus and let God's chang-es

G D Em D Em *after v. 4 only*
rit. Em D C Am

flow through us.
 flow through us.
 flow through us.
 flow through us. We are called to fol-low

Gmaj7 Cmaj7 Am Em G D Em D Em

Je - sus and let God's chang-es flow through us.