

The Falls Village Congregational Church  
September 3, 2023 10:00 a.m.  
14th Sunday after Pentecost  
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

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Welcome and Announcements

Ringin of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude – *Jesus, Feed Us* - Makeever and Wentzel

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

Call to Worship (Isaiah 40:28-29)

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

**Our Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.**

Our God does not faint or grow weary,

**His understanding is unsearchable.**

Our God gives power to the faint.

**And to those who have no might, our God increases strength.**

Collect for Communion:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #22 “*All Creatures of our God and King*”

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, who by your love has made us, and through your love has kept us, and in your love would make us perfect: We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. Neither have we loved one another as Christ has loved us. Your love is within us, but our selfishness has hindered you. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in your Spirit direct what we shall be, that your glory may be reflected in us and in all creation. Amen.

Silent Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

**TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Scripture Readings: Genesis 41: 25-49

Matthew 15:21-28

Susan Kelsey

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “When God Gives Us a Chance”

Rev. Richard Reifsnyder

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

*Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation #420 “*I Come with Joy*”

The Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your heads

**We lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

**It is right, and a good and joyful thing**

(The Minister continues the prayer)

The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

## Distribution of the Elements

(Please partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our individual relationship to God, but hold the cup so we may drink together, as a sign of our unity before our God)

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

**Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

## THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

**Closing Hymn: #713 "God of our Life"**

## Benediction

### Benediction Response

*God Be with You till We Meet Again*

.....  
*You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.*

## All Creatures of Our God and King 22

The musical score is written for a choir in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The first system is a unison vocal line. The second system features a harmony part for the vocalists and a unison part for the basses. The third system is a refrain, marked 'Refrain (Harmony)', with a unison part for the basses. The fourth system is a unison vocal line. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding musical staves.

*Unison*

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
2. O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n a-  
3. O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your God to  
4. And all for-giv-en ten-der hearts, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your

*Harmony* *Unison*

sing; Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en  
long, O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia! O ris-ing morn, in praise re-  
hear, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O blaz-ing fire who lights the  
part, sing prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia! You who long pain and sor-row

*Refrain (Harmony)*

beam, O sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam,  
joice, you lights of eve-ning find a voice, O praise God,  
night, pro-vid-ing warmth, en-hanc-ing sight,  
bear, praise God, who knows your ev-'ry care.

*Unison*

O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

## *Scripture Lessons for September 3, 2023*

### **GENESIS 41:25-49**

<sup>25</sup>Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>26</sup>The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. <sup>27</sup>The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are seven years of famine. <sup>28</sup>It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. <sup>29</sup>There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>30</sup>After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land. <sup>31</sup>The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous. <sup>32</sup>And the doubling of Pharaoh’s dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

<sup>33</sup>Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. <sup>34</sup>Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. <sup>35</sup>Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. <sup>36</sup>That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.” <sup>37</sup>The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. <sup>38</sup>Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find anyone else like this—one in whom is the spirit of God?” <sup>39</sup>So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. <sup>40</sup>You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” <sup>41</sup>And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” <sup>42</sup>Removing his signet ring from his hand, Pharaoh put it on Joseph’s hand; he arrayed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck. <sup>43</sup>He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command; and they cried out in front of him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. <sup>44</sup>Moreover Pharaoh

said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.” <sup>45</sup>Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, as his wife. Thus Joseph gained authority over the land of Egypt.

<sup>46</sup>Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went through all the land of Egypt. <sup>47</sup>During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly. <sup>48</sup>He gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt, and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. <sup>49</sup>So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance—like the sand of the sea—that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.

### **MATTHEW 15:21-28**

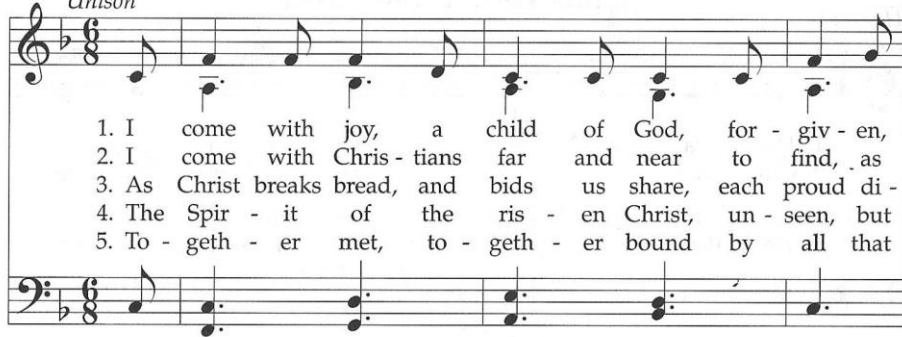
<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” <sup>24</sup>He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup>She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.



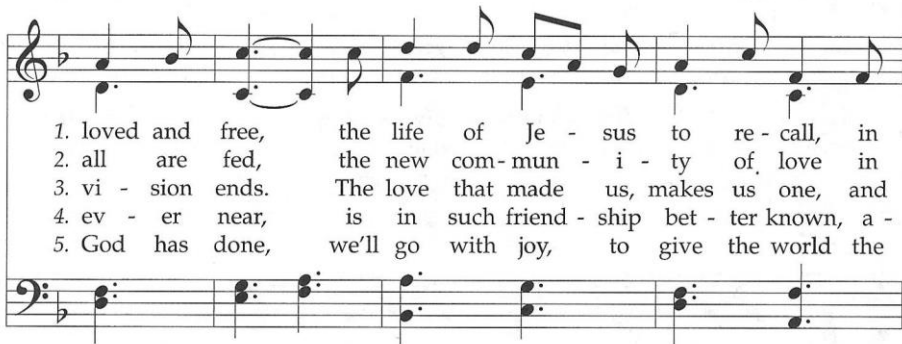
# I Come with Joy

420

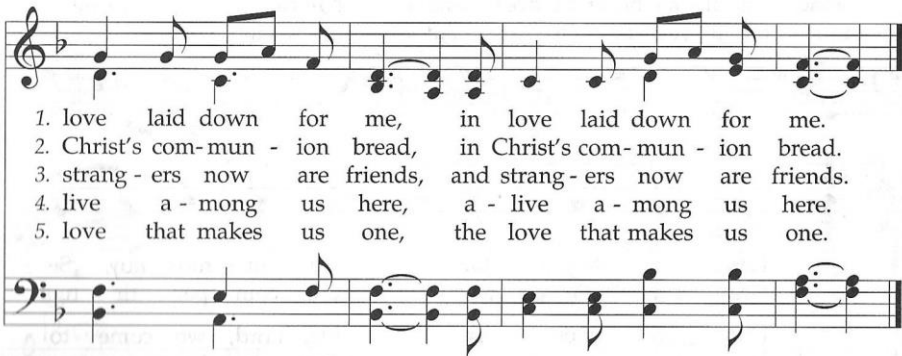
Unison



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,  
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as  
 3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di -  
 4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but  
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that



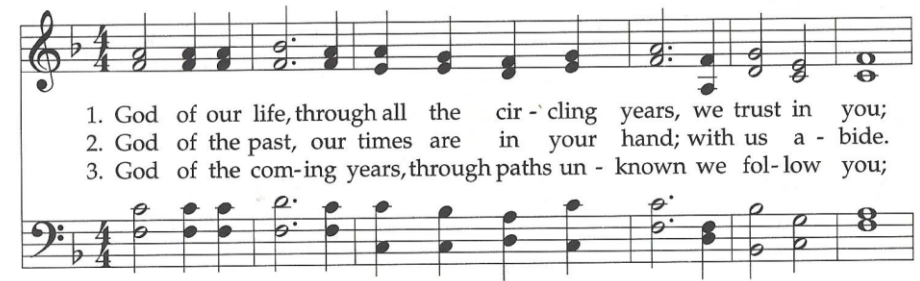
1. loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 2. all are fed, the new com - mun - i - ty of love in  
 3. vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 4. ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 5. God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



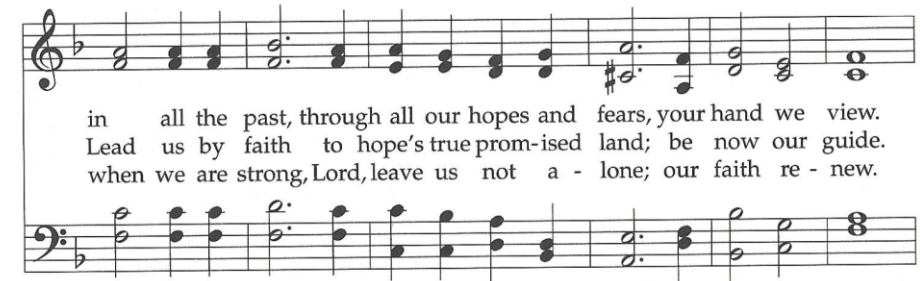
1. love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 2. Christ's com - mun - ion bread, in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
 3. strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 4. live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 5. love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

713

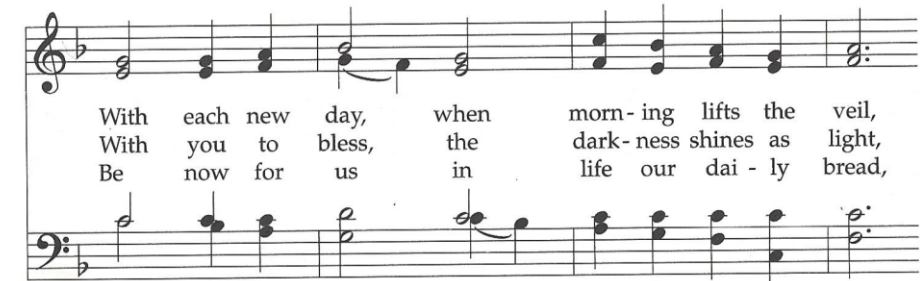
# God of Our Life



1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, we trust in you;  
 2. God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us a - bide.  
 3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low you;



in all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your hand we view.  
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom - ised land; be now our guide.  
 when we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; our faith re - new.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,  
 With you to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,  
 Be now for us in life our dai - ly bread,



we own your mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.  
 and faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.  
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.