

The Falls Village Congregational Church
September 10, 2023 10 a.m.
15th Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - *Andante* - W. A. Mozart

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (from Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord,

Praise the Lord, o my soul.

I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

O God who leads us into mystery that no human words can fully express, and who invites us to experience a love which knows no bounds: Be present with us that we might know you are in those real places of life and can bring us hope in our hurting, clarity in our confusion, grace in our guilt, belief in our doubt. Come, Holy Spirit, and breathe your life into our worship and our world. Amen

Opening Hymn: #111 “*Holy, Holy, Holy*”

(1st time in Spanish, then 2 times in English)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God: you are ever patient with us. You forgive us when we stumble. You give us new opportunities to show we can be loving, caring, and gracious people. We confess that we often are not so patient with ourselves or others. We get irritated too quickly. We can have unrealistic expectations. We can make life difficult for others. Give us patience. Make us slow to anger, but

quick to receive your forgiveness and love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 147: 1-6, p. 767

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 42: 6-25

Matthew 16:13-20

Kay Blass

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The Painful Place”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *O Taste and See* - D. Wagner

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #588 “*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*”

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.

Santo, Santo, Santo (Holy, Holy, Holy)

111

C G7 Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G7 C Am F G7 C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Psalm 147:1-6

RESPONSE

Charles Wesley
Robert Williams; harm. Carlton R. Young

Praise to God who reigns a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!

R

- 1 Praise the LORD!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 **The LORD builds up Jerusalem,
and gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
- 3 God heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 **God determines the number of the stars,
and gives to all of them their names.**
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
whose understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 **The LORD lifts up the downtrodden,
but casts the wicked to the ground. R**

Scripture Lessons for September 10, 2023

GENESIS 42: 6-25

⁶Now Joseph was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.

⁷When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."⁸ Although Joseph had recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. ⁹Joseph also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them. He said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land!" ¹⁰They said to him, "No, my lord; your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹We are all sons of one man; we are honest men; your servants have never been spies." ¹²But he said to them, "No, you have come to see the nakedness of the land!" ¹³They said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of a certain man in the land of Canaan; the youngest, however, is now with our father, and one is no more." ¹⁴But Joseph said to them, "It is just as I have said to you; you are spies! ¹⁵Here is how you shall be tested: as Pharaoh lives, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here! ¹⁶Let one of you go and bring your brother, while the rest of you remain in prison, in order that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you; or else, as Pharaoh lives, surely you are spies." ¹⁷And he put them all together in prison for three days. ¹⁸On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹if you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here where you are imprisoned. The rest of you shall go and carry grain for the famine of your households, ²⁰and bring your youngest brother to me. Thus your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they agreed to do so.

²¹They said to one another, "Alas, we are paying the penalty for what we did to our brother; we saw his anguish when he pleaded with us,

but we would not listen. That is why this anguish has come upon us." ²²Then Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to wrong the boy? But you would not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." ²³They did not know that Joseph understood them, since he spoke with them through an interpreter. ²⁴He turned away from them and wept; then he returned and spoke to them. And he picked out Simeon and had him bound before their eyes. ²⁵Joseph then gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to return every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey.

MATTHEW 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

588

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
 2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
 3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
 4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Thou art the pot - ter; I am the clay.
 Search me and try me, Sav - ior to - day!
 Wound - ed and wea - ry, help me I pray!
 Hold o'er my be - ing ab - so - lute sway.

Mold me and make me af - ter thy will,
 Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
 Pow - er, all pow - er, sure - ly is thine!
 Fill with thy Spir - it till all shall see

while I am wait - ing, yield - ed and still.
 as in thy pres - ence hum - bly I bow.
 Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine!
 Christ on - ly, al - ways, liv - ing in me!