

The Falls Village Congregational Church

October 1, 2023 10:00 a.m.

18th Sunday after Pentecost -World Communion Sunday

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude – *We All Are One in Mission* - R. Edwards

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Collect for Communion:

Prepare our hearts, O God, to hear and receive your word.

Silence in us any voice but your own, so that hearing, we may also trust you and learn to obey your will. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

Songs of Praise # 263 “*Surely the Presence of the Lord*”

261 “*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*”

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

Shining, surprising, grace filled God: for avoiding the searchlight of your desire for us and running away from your love:

Forgive us!

For preferring the safe, familiar and certain to the risky, unknown and mysterious:

Forgive us!

For fearing those different from ourselves, and projecting onto them what we cannot accept within our own depths:

Forgive us!

For assuming we are superior to the rest of creation, for abusing, despoiling and failing to celebrate our relationship with the earth and the web of life:

Forgive us!

For not noticing your presence in the shadows as in light, in body as in spirit, in feeling as in intellect, in pain as in healing, in Good Friday as in Easter Day:

Forgive us! Set us free, we pray, to be whole human beings and to live our lives graciously and without fear!

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 44:18-45:5, 13-14

Sara Wardell

Matthew 21: 28-32

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The Signature of Love”

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation # 422 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*”

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: #687 *"In Christ There is No East or West"*

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.

263 Surely the Presence of the Lord

263 Surely the Presence of the Lord

D F#m Gmaj9 Em

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place;

A7 D G/D

I can feel his might - y pow - er and his grace.

A7 D F#m

I can hear the brush of an - gels' wings,

Gmaj9 Em

I see glo - ry on each face; sure - ly the

A7 Em7 A7 D

pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system ends with a semicolon, and the second system ends with a period. The third and fourth systems end with a double bar line.

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings

we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know

that we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

Scripture Lessons for October 1, 2023

GENESIS 44:18-45:5, 13-14

¹⁸Then Judah stepped up to him and said, “O my lord, let your servant please speak a word in my lord’s ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are like Pharaoh himself. ¹⁹My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ ²⁰And we said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead; he alone is left of his mother’s children, and his father loves him.’ ²¹Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, so that I may set my eyes on him.’ ²²We said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’ ²³Then you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.’ ²⁴When we went back to your servant my father we told him the words of my lord. ²⁵And when our father said, ‘Go again, buy us a little food,’ ²⁶we said, ‘We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother goes with us, will we go down; for we cannot see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ ²⁷Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons; ²⁸one left me, and I said, Surely he has been torn to pieces; and I have never seen him since. ²⁹If you take this one also from me, and harm comes to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in sorrow to Sheol.’ ³⁰Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy’s life, ³¹when he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die; and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. ³²For your servant became surety for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I will bear the blame in the sight of my father all my life.’ ³³Now therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord in place of the boy; and let the boy go back with his brothers. ³⁴For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the suffering that would come upon my father.”

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And

he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life... ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

MATTHEW 21:28-34

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

687 In Christ There Is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev' - ry - where their
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west in

him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -
 high com - mun - ion find; his ser - vice is the
 e'er your race may be; all chil - dren of the
 him meet south and north; all lov - ing hearts are

ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

WORDS: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.
 MUSIC: Alexander R. Reinagle, c. 1830

ST. PETER
 CM