

The Falls Village Congregational Church
October 15, 2023 10 a.m.
20th Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - *Moderato* - F. Mendelssohn

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (from Romans 11)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?

Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Living Lord: you come to us at whatever place we may be in our spiritual journey. You are waiting for us, ready to welcome us, eager to respond to us who are carrying heavy burdens or who need inspiration for life. Be with us as we worship, so that at whatever place we may be, you may lift our hearts into your healing and transforming presence. Amen. .

Opening Hymn: #16 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for

the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Forgive us and renew within us your Holy Spirit that we might be your faithful disciples. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 122, p. 761

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: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 Rowena Fenstermacher
Matthew 18: 15-20 Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Letting the Church Be the Church”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Song of Fellowship* - D. Wagner

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

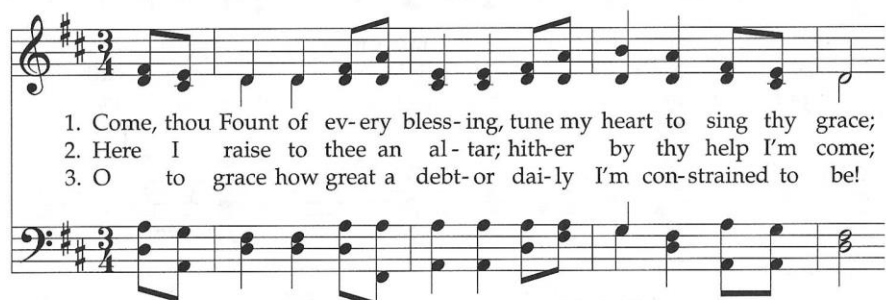
Hymn #272 “The Church’s One Foundation”

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.

16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



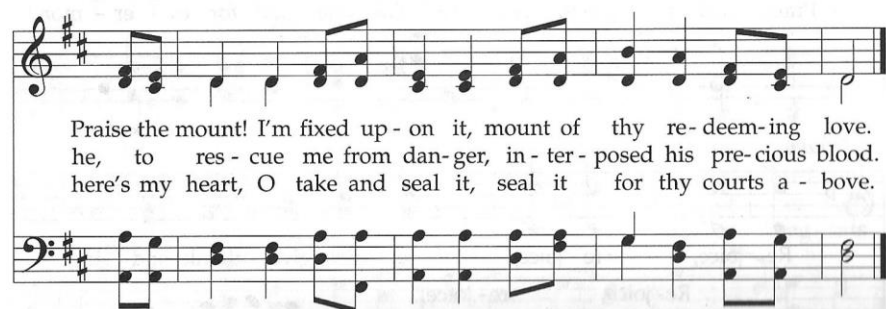
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I raise to thee an al-tar; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.
 Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
 Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan-der, how I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it, mount of thy re-deem-ing love.
 he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a-bove.

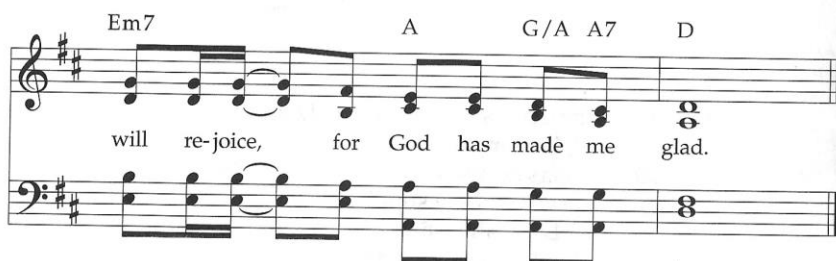
Psalm 122

Leona von Brethorst
 Arr. Ken Barker

RESPONSE



God has made me glad, God has made me glad, I



will re-joice, for God has made me glad.

R

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,
 "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
- 2 **Our feet are standing**
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem—built as a city
 that is bound firmly together.
- 4 **To it the tribes go up,**
the tribes of the LORD,
 as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- 5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
 the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 "May they prosper who love you.
- 7 **Peace be within your walls,**
and security within your towers."
- 8 For the sake of my relatives and friends
 I will say, "Peace be within you."
- 9 For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
 I will seek your good. R

Scripture Lessons for October 15, 2023

LEVITICUS 19: 1-2, 11-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. ¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

MATTHEW 18: 15-20

¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Church's One Foundation

Descant

5. We now on earth have un-ion with God the Three in One,

1. The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ our Lord;
2. Called forth from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
3. Though with a scorn-ful won-der the world sees us op-pressed,
4. Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of our war,
5. We now on earth have un-ion with God the Three in One,

and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won.

1. we are his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the Word;
2. our char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
3. by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,
4. we wait the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more;
5. and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won.

Oh, hap-py ones, Lord, give us grace that we

1. from heaven he came and sought us to be his ho-ly bride;
2. One ho-ly name pro-fess-ing and at one ta-ble fed,
3. yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
4. till with the vi-sion glo-rious our long-ing eyes are blest,
5. Oh, hap-py ones, and ho-ly! Lord, give us grace that we

like them, the meek, on high may dwell with thee.

1. with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.
2. to one hope al-ways press-ing, by Christ's own Spir-it led.
3. And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.
4. and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.
5. like them, the meek and low-ly, on high may dwell with thee.