

The Falls Village Congregational Church

October 8, 2023 10 a.m.

18th Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* - arr. J. Carter

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship – (from Psalm 27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?

Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

Trusting in the Lord, let us be bold to worship.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Loving God: be present as we worship, that your spirit might tell us what we need to hear, show us what we ought to do, and empower us to be bold to obey Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #25 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Prayer of Confession

Dear Lord, we come to you today in worship and praise, knowing that you are God, and thus worthy of our praise. We also come recognizing that we are sinners and stand here in need of you, our Savior. We have sinned against you and others and ourselves and have wanted to go our own way. We have been stubborn, controlling, and selfish, and have not been faithful to You. We confess that we haven’t been good witnesses of your love and grace, and have not stood firm in our faith. Forgive us, Lord. Change our hearts and cause us to turn toward you. Breathe your Spirit into us, making us new and whole. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 133, p. 764, response 1

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 50: 15-22
Matthew 22:34-46

Maria Bulson
Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Taking the Long View”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *We Have Built This House on Faith* –
Martin and Angerman

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #274 “*I Love Your Church, O God*”

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.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Descant

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all of earth's peo - ples and

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre -
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de -
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour - ish thy life and re -
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all of earth's peo - ples and

grac - es. Let the A - men sound from God's peo - ple a -
1. va - tion. All ye who hear, now to God's tem - ple draw
2. tain - eth. Hast thou not seen? All that is need - ful hath
3. tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
4. fore thee. Then to thy need God as a moth - er doth
5. grac - es. Let the A - men sound from God's peo - ple a -

gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er sing prais - es.
1. near. Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
2. been grant - ed in what God or - dain - eth.
3. do, who with great love doth be - friend thee.
4. speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
5. gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er sing prais - es.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt;
st. 4 tr. Rupert E. Davies, 1983
MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; desc. Craig Sellar Lang, 1953

LOBE DEN HERREN
14.14.478

Psalm 133

Anonymous

Finnish folk melody; harm. David Evans

RESPONSE 1

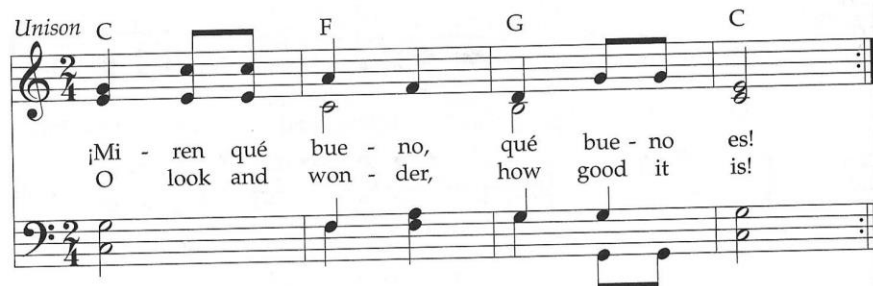


U - nite us, God, u - nite us in your ev - er - last - ing love.

RESPONSE 2

Pablo Sosa; tr. George Lockwood
Pablo Sosa; arr. Alvin Schutmaat

Unison C F G C



¡Mi - ren qué bue - no, qué bue - no es!
O look and won - der, how good it is!

R

- ¹ How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- ² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
- ³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there God ordained a blessing:
life forevermore! R

Scripture Lessons for October 8, 2023

GENESIS 50: 15-22

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. ²²So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's household; and Joseph lived one hundred ten years.

MATTHEW 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

I Love Your Church, O God

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The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the five parts of the choir.

1. I love your church, O God, on earth your
2. I love your church, O God, whose walls be -
3. In love my tears shall fall, in love my
4. Be - yond my high - est joys, I prize your
5. Sure as your truth shall last, to Zi - on

1. blest a - bode, the peo - ple our re -
2. fore you stand, dear as the ap - ple
3. prayers as - cend, to serve your church, my
4. peo - ple's ways, the sweet com - mun - ion,
5. shall be given the bright - est glo - ries

1. deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
2. of your eye, and grav - en on your hand.
3. toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
4. sol - emn vows, the hymns of love and praise.
5. earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

WORDS: Timothy Dwight, 1801, alt.
MUSIC: Aaron Williams, 1770

ST. THOMAS
SM