

The Falls Village Congregational Church
November 12, 2023 10 a.m.
24th Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements
Ring of the Bell
Prelude

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (Psalm 1: 1-3)

Blessed are those who walk not in the counsel of the wicked
Nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers.

But their delight is in the law of the Lord,

And on that law do they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

That yields fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Grant, O God, that we may never begrudge any time we give to you, but that we may always be grateful to hear your word, glad to sing your praise, ready to hear your truth, eager to pray to you. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #718 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God: We confess that we get focused on our own needs and perspectives too easily. We think our issues and concerns are more important than anyone else’s. We pull back when things do not go our own way or the road is difficult. Forgive us, and give us courage to see things more clearly through your eyes. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17, p. 746

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: Amos 5: 18-24

2nd Corinthians 8:1-15

Maria Bulson

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The Privilege of Giving”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory –

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #606 “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

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.

718 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Descant

3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence our blessings flow;

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2. All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
 3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow;

for these our souls raise grate-ful vows and praise. Come, then, ye
 all is safe-ly gath-ered in, ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
 all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,
 and for these our souls shall raise grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

God, our Mak-er, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
 all that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,
 Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 all that lib-eral au-tumn pours from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,
 come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Psalm 92:15; 18:2

Johann Crüger; harm. Felix Mendelssohn

RESPONSE

Sing praise to God our rock, in whom we take our refuge.

R

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- 4 **For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- 6 **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers. R**

- 13 Turn, O LORD! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 **Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.**
- 16 Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
- 17 **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands! R**

Scripture Lessons for November 12, 2023

AMOS 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

2ND CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you.

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— ¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

606 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



1. God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store,
2. Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3. Trea-sure too you have en-trust-ed, gain thru powers your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door:
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel Word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-fering up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands, in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

