

The Falls Village Congregational Church

January 14, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude – *Jesus the Very Thought of Thee*

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

People of God, what is our comfort in life and death?

That we belong, body and soul, to the living God.

And where do we find help?

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Let us worship the living God, our comfort and our help.

Collect for the New Year

O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds, that we may pass into the new year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise #713 “God of Our Life”

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God: you are faithful and just; you are willing to forgive our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness. Before you and our sisters and brothers, we confess that we have spoken empty words and have at times broken even our most sacred vows. Our sins are an affront to you and they have caused unspeakable pain. Through our Lord Jesus may we begin this new year with the joy of knowing we belong to you, with the freedom of being purified by your blood, and

with the healing which your grace alone can bring. In the name of our blessed Savior we pray. Amen

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: Isaiah 55:1-11

Christine Wallace

John 1:24-36

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Beginning with Baptism”

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation #413 “Take Our Bread”

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: #226 "He Lives"

Benediction

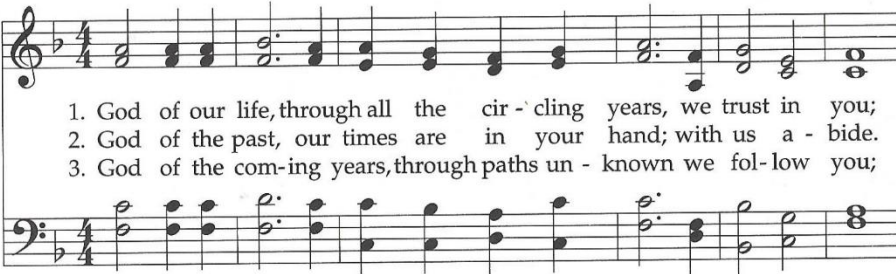
Benediction Response

God Be with You till We Meet Again

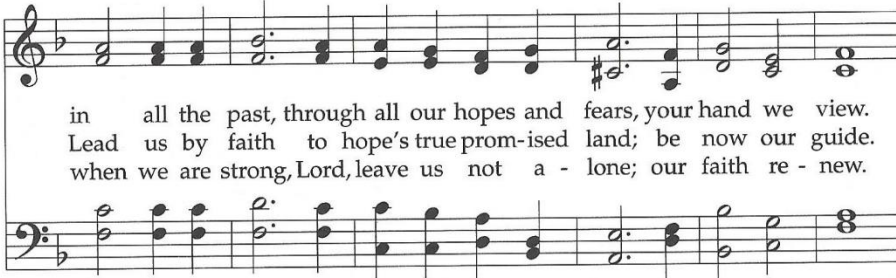
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You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.

713

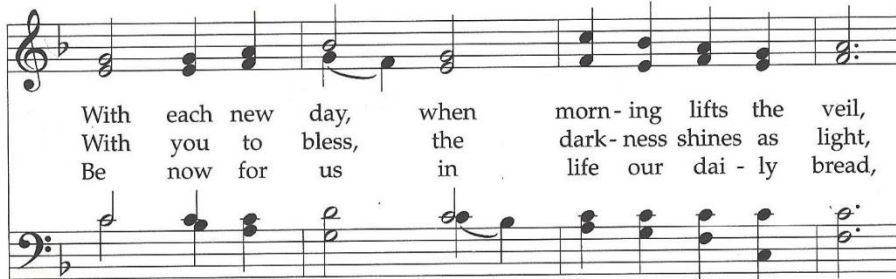
God of Our Life



1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, we trust in you;
2. God of the past, our times are in your hand; with us a - bide.
3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known we fol - low you;



in all the past, through all our hopes and fears, your hand we view.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom - ised land; be now our guide.
when we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; our faith re - new.



With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
With you to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
Be now for us in life our dai - ly bread,



we own your mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
and faith's fair vi - sion chan - ges in - to sight.
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

413 Take Our Bread

Refrain (Unison)

C **Am** **Dm7** **G7**

1. Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you.

C **Dm** **G** **G7** **C** *Fine*

Take our lives, O Fa-ther, we are yours, we are yours.

C **Am** **C** **Am**

1. Yours as we stand at the ta-ble you set;
2. Your ho-ly peo-ple stand-ing washed in your blood,

C **F** **Dm** **G7**

yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't for-get.
Spir-it-filled yet hun-gry we a-wait your food. We are

C **Am** **C** **Am**

We are the sign of your life with us yet,
poor, but we've brought our-selves the best that we could;

Dm7 **G** **D.C.**

we are yours, we are yours.

Scripture Lessons for January 14, 2024

ISAIAH 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

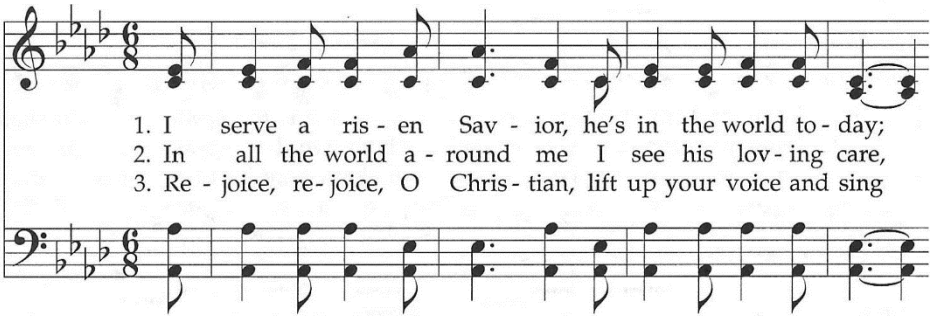
⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

JOHN 1: 24-36

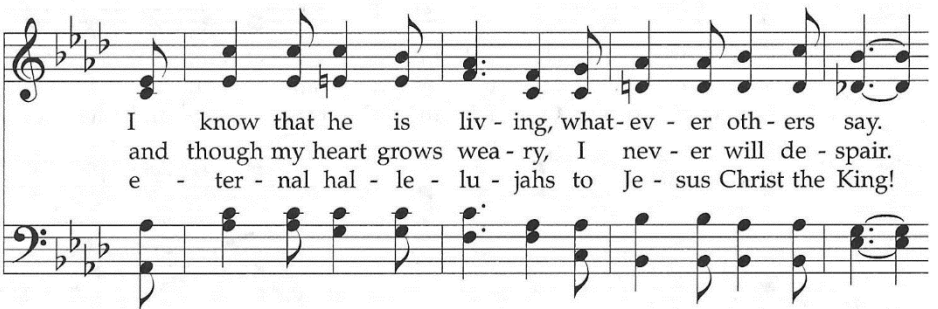
²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. ²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”

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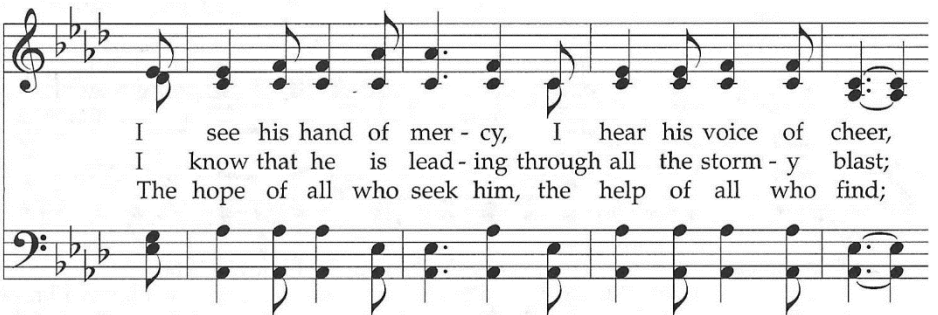
He Lives!



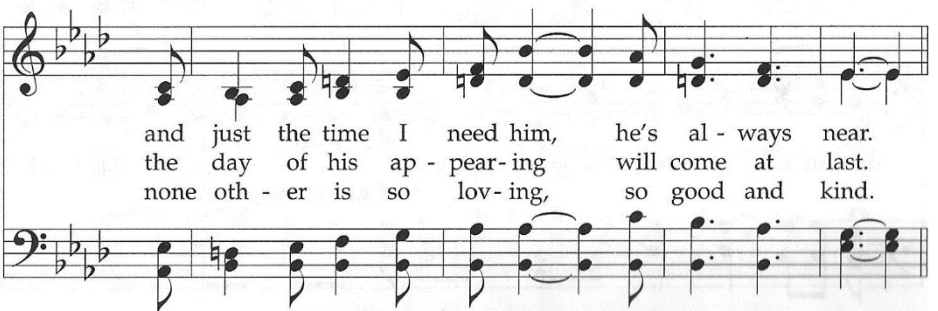
1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
2. In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
3. Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say.
and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair.
e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast;
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;



and just the time I need him, he's al - ways near.
the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

Refrain

He lives, he lives, Christ Je-sus lives to-day!

(he lives) (he lives)

He walks with me and talks with me a-long life's nar-row way.

He lives, he lives, sal-va-tion to im-part!

(he lives) (he lives)

You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.