

The Falls Village Congregational Church
January 21, 2024 10 a.m.
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude – *It Is Well With My Soul* - arr. M. Larkin

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 55)

Seek the Lord while he may be found

Call upon him while he is near

Let the wicked forsake their ways,

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.

:

Opening Prayer (Unison):

O God, light of the minds that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #23 “*Praise, my Soul, the God of Heaven*”

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God: Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we rely too often upon our own human illusions of control and satisfaction, even though we know that these illusions separate us from you. Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, and help us to rely on the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation. In Jesus name, Amen.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 40: 1-3, 9-11, p. 740.

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: Exodus 3:7-15
Mark 1: 14-20

Mary Atwood
Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The God in Charge”
The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Lift Your Light* - M. McDonald

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #561 “*It is Well with my Soul*”

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.

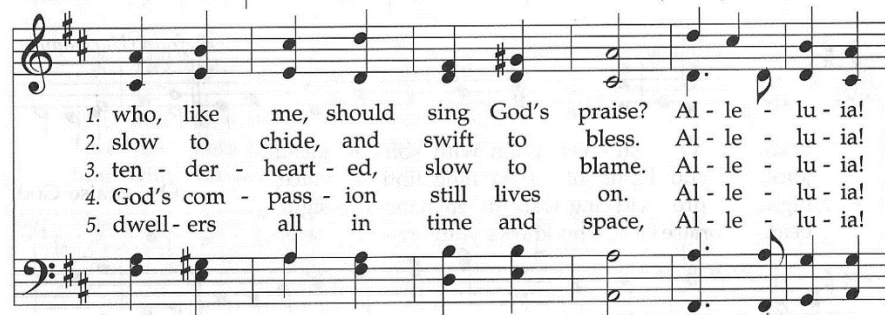
23 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



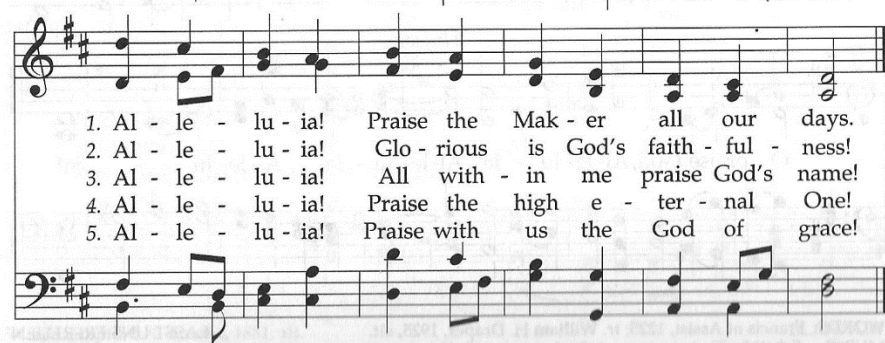
1. Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en, glad of heart your
 2. Praise to God for grace and fav - or shown to all who
 3. Moth - er - like, God tends and spares us, know - ing well our
 4. Frail as sum - mer's flower we flour - ish: blows the wind, and
 5. An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion you who see God



1. car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 2. are op - pressed. God shows stead - fast love for - ev - er,
 3. frag - ile frame. Fath - er - like, God gent - ly bears us,
 4. it is gone. But, while mor - tals rise and per - ish,
 5. face to face; sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,



1. who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. ten - der - heart - ed, slow to blame. Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. God's com - pass - ion still lives on. Al - le - lu - ia!
 5. dwell - ers all in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia!

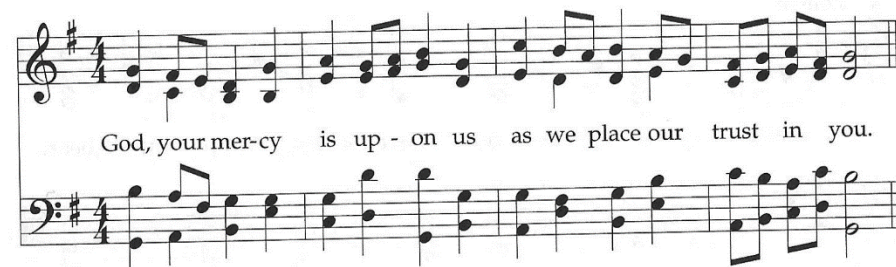


1. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all our days.
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me praise God's name!
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the high e - ter - nal One!
 5. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Psalm 40:1-3, 9-11

Psalm 40:11, adapt.
 Traditional Dutch melody

RESPONSE



God, your mer - cy is up - on us as we place our trust in you.

R

- 1 I waited patiently for the LORD,
 who inclined to me and heard my cry,
- 2 **who drew me up from the desolate pit,
 out of the miry bog,
 and set my feet upon a rock,
 making my steps secure,**
- 3 who put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God.
**Many will see and fear,
 and put their trust in the LORD. R**
- 9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
 in the great congregation;
**see, I have not restrained my lips,
 as you know, O God.**
- 10 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
**I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
 from the great congregation.**
- 11 Do not, O God, withhold
 your mercy from me;
**let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
 keep me safe forever. R**

Scripture Lessons for January 21, 2024

EXODUS 3: 7-15

⁷Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

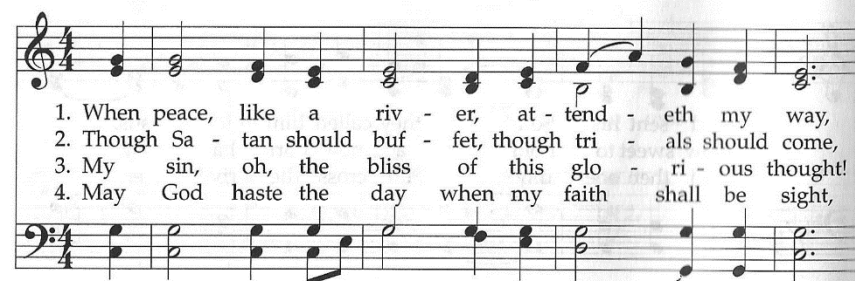
¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹²He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” ¹³But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

MARK 1: 14-20

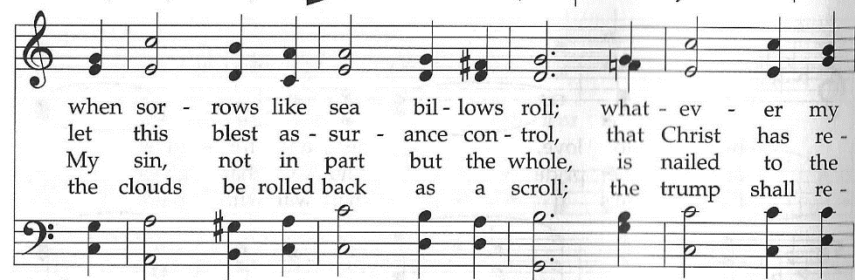
¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

It Is Well with My Soul

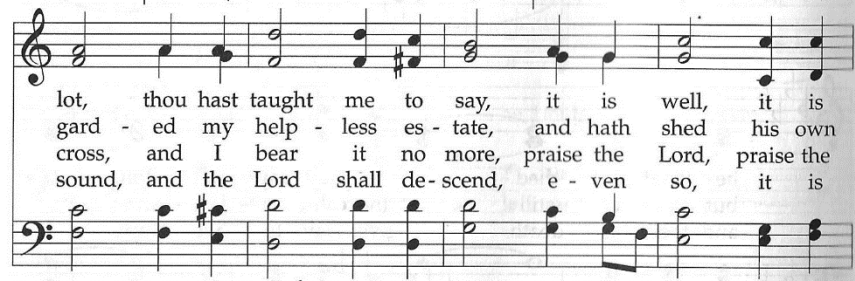
561



1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
 3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!
 4. May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,



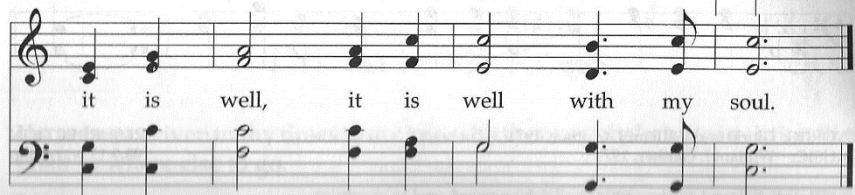
when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my
 let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -
 My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re -



lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is
 gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own
 cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the
 sound, and the Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is



Refrain
 well with my soul.
 blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,
 Lord, O my soul!
 well with my soul. It is well with my soul,



it is well, it is well with my soul.

