

The Falls Village Congregational Church

February 25, 2024 10 a.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

---

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude – *Near the Cross* - W. Doane, arr. J. Carter

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

Call to Worship

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer holding our misdeeds against us;

**And God has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation.**

There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

**One God and father of all who is over all, and through all, and in all.**

Let us worship this one, reconciling God.

:

Opening Prayer (Unison):

O God, maker of all things, your presence is with us always, around us and within us. You are the source of all things and without you we and all things would cease to be. Help us to worship you with mind and heart and all the power of our being through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Opening Hymn: #24 “*The God of Abraham Praise*”

Prayer of Confession

O God of mercy: we come to you conscious of the things within ourself we hate to remember yet cannot forget: our self-indulgences, our prejudices, our resentments, our hypocrisies, our selfishness. Forgive us and give us the assurance of pardon, the relief of those who know that the past is forgiven, the joy of those

who know the future is still to make. May we live in the fullness and freedom of life, which you have promised us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**TO HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Responsive Reading Psalm 22:1-18, p. 732

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 17:1-8

Mark 8: 31-38

Tracy Atwood

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “Comfort and Crosses”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

**TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

Offertory – *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone* - J. Martin

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE**

Hymn #548 “*The Old Rugged Cross*”

Benediction

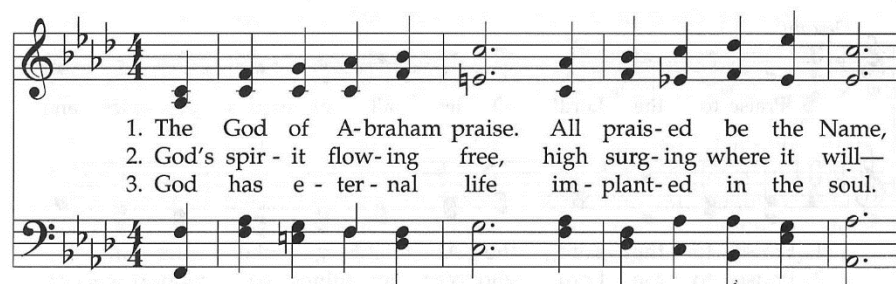
Benediction Response- *God Be with You till We Meet Again*

\*\*\*\*\*

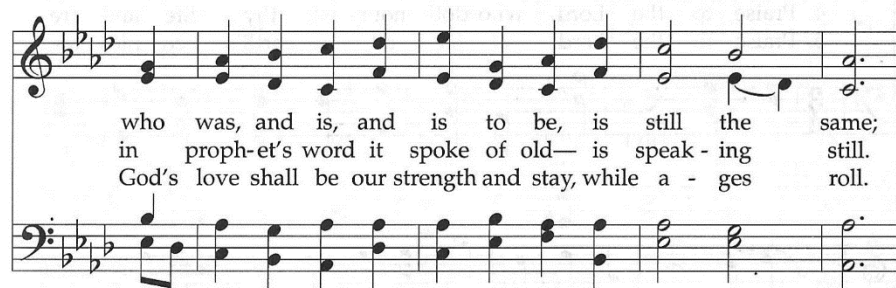
Your tithes and offerings may be left in the plates at either entrance to the sanctuary.

# The God of Abraham Praise

24



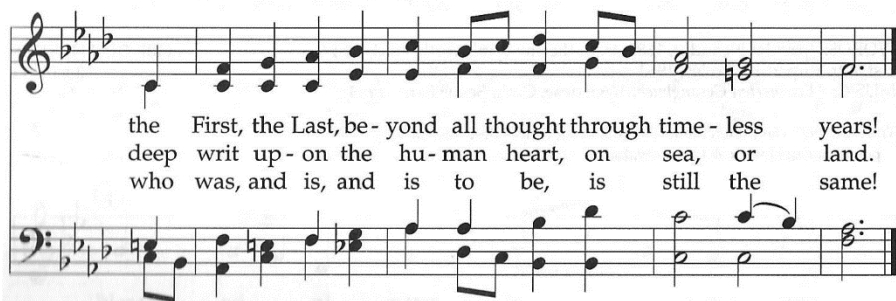
1. The God of A-braham praise. All prais-ed be the Name,  
 2. God's spir - it flow-ing free, high surg-ing where it will—  
 3. God has e - ter - nal life im - plant-ed in the soul.



who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;  
 in proph-et's word it spoke of old— is speak - ing still.  
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



the one e - ter - nal God, ere all that now ap - pears,  
 Es - tab-lished is God's law, and change-less it shall stand,  
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be the Name,



the First, the Last, be - yond all thought through time - less years!  
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, or land.  
 who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!

# Psalm 22:1-18, 25-31

Psalm 22:27  
 Gary Alan Smith

RESPONSE



*Unison*  
 All the ends of the earth shall re-mem-ber and turn un - to God.

R

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
**Why are you so far from helping me,  
 from the words of my groaning?**
- 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
 and by night, but find no rest.
- 3 **Yet you are holy,  
 enthroned on the praises of Israel.**
- 4 In you our ancestors trusted;  
 they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 **To you they cried, and were saved;  
 in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. R**
- 6 But I am a worm, and not human;  
 scorned by others, and despised by the people.
- 7 **All who see me mock at me;  
 they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;**
- 8 "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—  
 let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
- 9 **Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
 you kept me safe on my mother's breast.**
- 10 On you I was cast from my birth,  
 and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
- 11 **Do not be far from me,  
 for trouble is near  
 and there is no one to help. R**

*Scripture Lessons for February 25, 2024*

**GENESIS 17:1-8**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

<sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

<sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup>And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.”

12 Many bulls encircle me,  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
13 **they open wide their mouths at me,**  
**like a ravening and roaring lion.**  
14 I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
**my heart is like wax;**  
**it is melted within my breast;**  
15 my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
**you lay me in the dust of death.**  
16 For dogs are all around me;  
**a company of evildoers encircles me.**  
**My hands and feet have shriveled;**  
17 I can count all my bones.  
They stare and gloat over me;  
18 **they divide my clothes among themselves,**  
**and for my clothing they cast lots. R**  
  
25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
**my vows I will pay before those who fear God.**  
26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
**those who seek the LORD shall sing praise .**  
**May your hearts live forever!**  
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and  
turn to the LORD;  
**and all the families of the nations**  
**shall worship before God.**  
28 For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
**who rules over the nations.**  
29 To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
**before God shall bow all who go down to the dust,**  
**and I shall live for the LORD.**  
30 Posterity will serve the LORD;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,  
31 **and proclaim deliverance to a people yet unborn,**  
**saying that God has done it. R**



## MARK 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

548

## The Old Rugged Cross

1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross,  
2. O that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world,  
3. In that old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,  
4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true,

the em - blem of suf - fering and shame;  
has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;  
a won - drous beau - ty I see,  
its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;

and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best  
for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove  
for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,  
then he'll call me some day to my home far a - way,

for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.  
to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.  
to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.  
where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross,  
cross, the old rug - ged cross,

till my tro - phies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rug - ged cross,  
cross, the old rug - ged cross,

and ex - change it some day for a crown.