

The Falls Village Congregational Church
February 4, 2024 10:00 a.m.
5th Sunday after Epiphany
The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude – *We All Are One in Mission* - J. Martinson

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (I John 3:1-2)

See what love God has given us that we should be called the children of God

And so we are

Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be,

For when Jesus appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Prayer for God's Presence

Almighty God, who holds the entire universe in his hands and yet who numbers the hair on our heads and cares for our smallest need: Grant that in this time we may come to know you more clearly, follow you more nearly, love you more dearly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn of Praise # 97 "*Fairest Lord Jesus*"

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, if we were marked only by our transgressions, no one could stand. But with you there is forgiveness, and so we come to you, eager for mercy. Forgive us when we don't exercise curiosity and patience to get to know other people and to see you at work within their lives. Forgive us for those times we have been too easily offended, perceiving that we might be personally threatened. Forgive us when, without listening, we assume our way is the best. Pour the healing power of your love into our

hearts, and strengthen us in our walk as your disciples, that we might meet brokenness with your love. Through Christ 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: Joshua 24:13-18

Dick Heinz

Ephesians 4:1-16

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "Why Can't Christians Seem to Agree?"

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation # *Come to the Table of Grace*"

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: # 275 "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
(tune of Regent Square #149)

Benediction

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be with You till We Meet Again

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

97

Fairest Lord Jesus

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,

O thou of God to earth come down; thee will I cher - ish,
robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
and all the twink - ling, star - ry hosts: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

WORDS: *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; tr. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt.
MUSIC: *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

ST. ELIZABETH
568.558

Scripture Lessons for February 4, 2024

JOSHUA 24:13-18

¹³I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive yards that you did not plant. ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.” ⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

18 Come to the Table of Grace

$\text{♩} = 72 (\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{♩})$

F C7 F F7/C

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

Bb C F C

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

F Bb/F F7 Bb Bdim7

This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine.

F/C C7 F

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

275 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3. Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they ask of

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 Hosts, to - day; with your faith - ful lov - ing kind - ness
 you to gain, what they gain from you for - ev - er

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.