

The Falls Village Congregational Church

March 17, 2024 10 a.m.

5th Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude – A Celtic Set for Lent - T. Keesecker

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 43)

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine says the Lord.

Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth,

Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

:

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Gracious God, lead us in our worship today, that our lips might praise you, our thoughts might honor you, and our lives might glorify your name. We come to sing and to pray and to learn. We know you always hear us. Help us to listen and to hear you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #480 “*I Love to Tell the Story*”

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, the gospel of Jesus Christ is life to those who call upon his name. Yet, there are so many who do not believe and who have not truly heard. You call us to share Jesus with our hurting world. Yet, we confess that we miss countless opportunities to bring your loving message of salvation to others. Forgive us for shying away from the joy of this privilege. Renew in us a heart for others. Fill us with your Spirit. Give us the courage to share our

story and encourage others to join the journey of faith. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 130, p. 762

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: John 4:1-15

John 4:16-30, 39

Ward Belcher

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: “The Power of Personal Testimony”

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – Praise His Holy Name - K. Hampton

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #108 “*Lift High the 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.

I Love to Tell the Story

480

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem
 Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to
 seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when, in
 tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my
 tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal -
 scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old
 long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 va - tion from God's own ho - ly word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill
 sto - ry that I have loved so long.
 be my theme in glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Psalm 130

David Goodrich
Gary Chamberlain

RESPONSE

Unison
 From the depths I cry to you; God, lis - ten to my voice.

R

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
- 2 **Lord, hear my voice!**
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
- 3 **If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,**
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
- 5 **I wait for you, my soul waits,**
and in your word I hope. R
- 6 My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with God is great power to redeem.
- 8 **It is God who will redeem Israel**
from all its iniquities. R

Scripture Lessons for March 17, 2024

JOHN 4:1-15

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” ²—although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— ³he left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

JOHN 4:16-30, 39

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him...

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”

Lift High the Cross

108

Refrain (Unison)



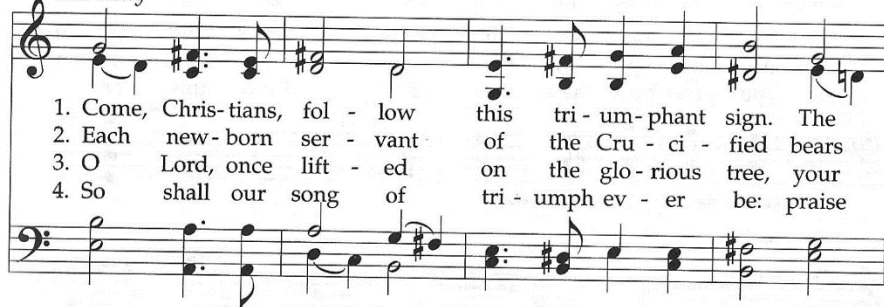
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Fine



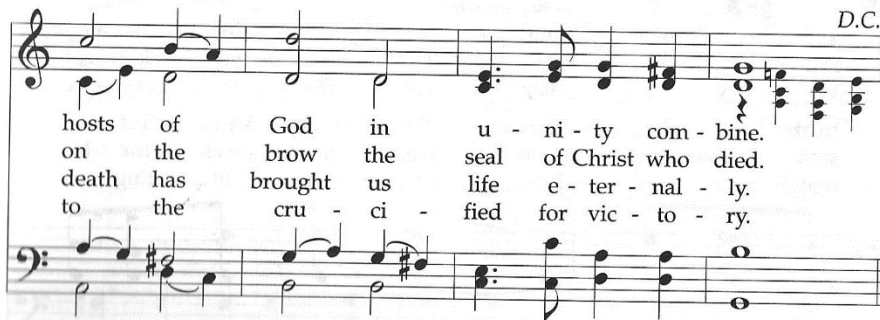
till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

Harmony



1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low this tri - um - phant sign. The
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

D.C.



hosts of God in u - ni - ty com - bine.
on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
to the cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.