

**The Falls Village Congregational Church**  
**March 3, 2024 10 a.m.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**The Reverend Terrence Ryan, Worship Leader**

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Prelude - *Great is Thy Faithfulness* - arr. J. Carter**

**THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE**

**Call to Worship –**

God's Spirit is moving among us: thanks be to God!

**How good it is to be chosen by God; we gather to sing and to give thanks.**

The Lord has done great things. Now the Lord is calling us to confront hatred with love, compassion, and mercy.

**The Scriptures show us the way. Am I ready to risk the slings and arrows of those who bear bitterness and hatred for people who are different than they are?**

Will we dare the wilderness of the times we live in? Will we love those who are convinced that we who follow Christ are fools?

**We know what is behind us. We do not know what awaits us around the next turn in the path.**

Then, onward to Glory we go!

**Prayer for God's Presence (Unison):**

**Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us. Strengthen us to stand for what is good. Give us the words to speak, the joy to live, and that love to care about our neighbors and our fellow pilgrims who**

**are hard at sea who seek a new beginning. Enter our hearts as we worship, as we give You our praise, and, most of all, as we give our thanksgiving. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: #65 “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”**

**Prayer of Confession**

Loving and Almighty God, many times we think we love you well, but we deceive ourselves. We confess our love for you is diluted and divided. Our attention falls away. Our devotion dies. Our commitment withers. Forgive us, O God. In your deep mercy, spare us. Rekindle our love for you as we experience your love for us through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Silent Confession**

**Personal prayer of confession (in unison):**

**I have fallen short of the mark and often times miss the target of a sacred life. Give us humility to face the truth, courage to choose to live in Jesus' name, and the faith to trust Him now and forever.**

**TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 90, pg. 746

**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 2:13-22

John 5:1-16

Frank Hadsell

Rev. Terrence Ryan

**Prayer**

**Sermon:** “How Long Do You Expect to Live”

The Rev. Terrence Ryan

## **TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

### *Sacrament of Holy Communion*

#### **Invitation to Communion**

**Hymn of Preparation** #425 *“Let us Break Bread Together”*

#### **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)

#### **Pastoral 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**

**Hymn** #77 *“On Eagle’s Wings”*

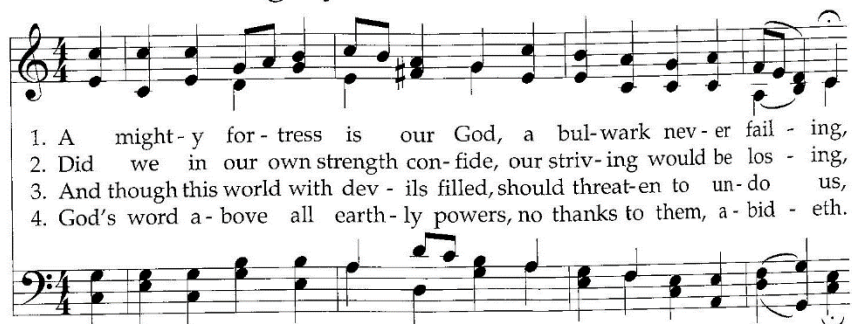
#### **Benediction**

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

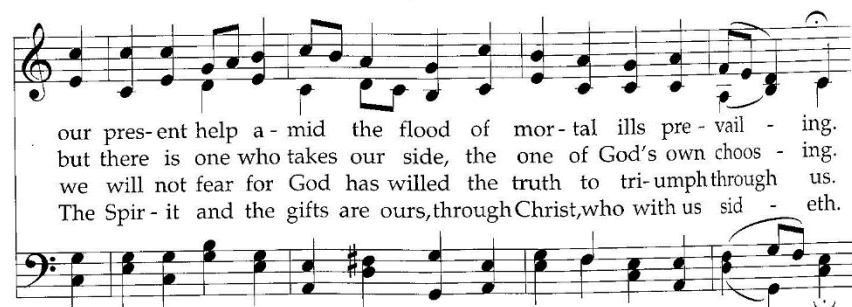
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Your tithes and offerings may be left in the plates at either entrance to the sanctuary.

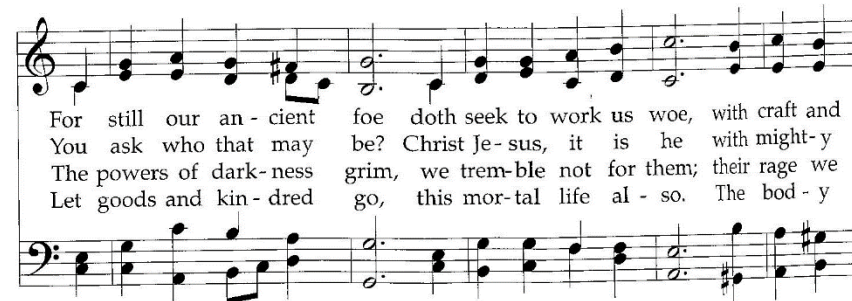
## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



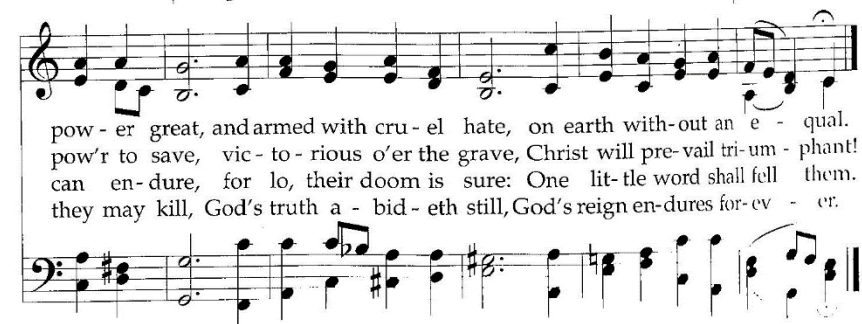
1. A might-y for-tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail-ing,  
 2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los-ing,  
 3. And though this world with dev-ils filled, should threat-en to un-do us,  
 4. God's word a-bove all earth-ly powers, no thanks to them, a-bid-eth.



our pres-ent help a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.  
 but there is one who takes our side, the one of God's own choos-ing.  
 we will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri-umph through us.  
 The Spir-it and the gifts are ours, through Christ, who with us sid-eth.



For still our an-cient foe doth seek to work us woe, with craft and  
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he with might-y  
 The powers of dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for them; their rage we  
 Let goods and kin-dred go, this mor-tal life al-so. The bod-y



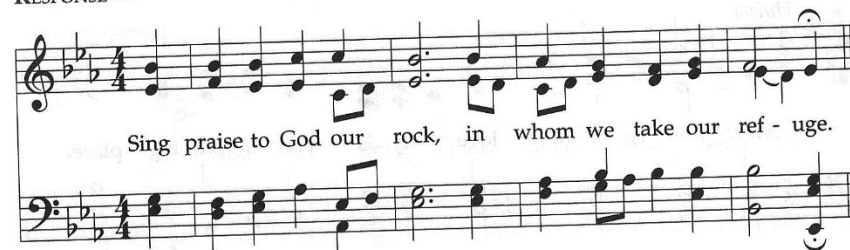
pow-er great, and armed with cru-el hate, on earth with-out an e-qual.  
 pow'r to save, vic-to-ri-ous o'er the grave, Christ will pre-vail tri-um-phant!  
 can en-dure, for lo, their doom is sure: One lit-tle word shall fell them.  
 they may kill, God's truth a-bid-eth still, God's reign en-dures for-ev-er.

## Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Psalm 92:15; 18:2

Johann Crüger; harm. Felix Mendelssohn

## RESPONSE



Sing praise to God our rock, in whom we take our ref-uge.

## R

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- 4 **For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- 6 **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers. R**
- 13 Turn, O LORD! How long?  
**Have compassion on your servants!**
- 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 15 **Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.**
- 16 Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.
- 17 **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands! R**

## *Scripture Lessons for September 24, 2023*

### *John 2:13-22*

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' 18 The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' 19 Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' 20 The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

### *John 5:1-16*

5 After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew[a] Beth-zatha,[b] which has five porticoes. 3 In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed.[c] 5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' 7 The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' 8 Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' 9 At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

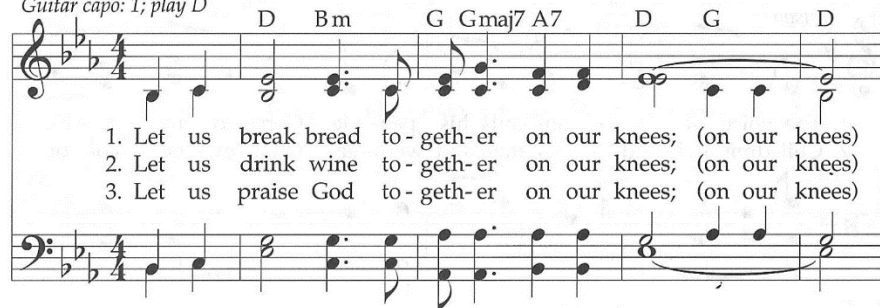
Now that day was a sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.' 11 But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk."' 12 They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?' 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in[d] the crowd that was there. 14 Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.' 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath.



# Let Us Break Bread Together 425

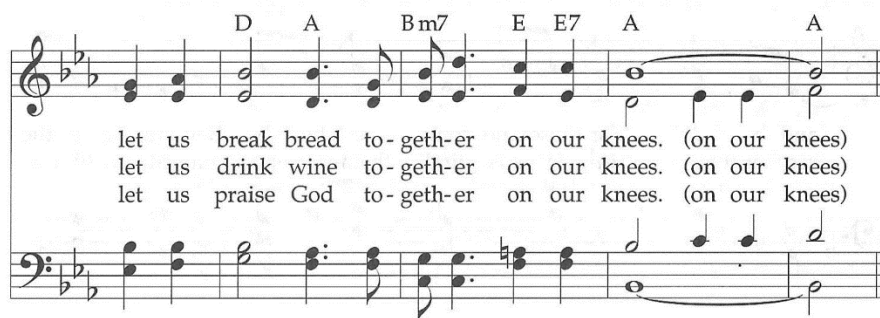
Guitar capo: 1; play D

D Bm G Gmaj7 A7 D G D



1. Let us break bread to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)  
2. Let us drink wine to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)  
3. Let us praise God to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)

D A Bm7 E E7 A A



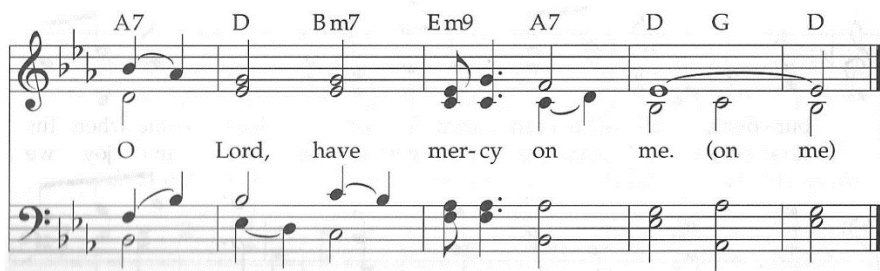
let us break bread to- geth- er on our knees. (on our knees)  
let us drink wine to- geth- er on our knees. (on our knees)  
let us praise God to- geth- er on our knees. (on our knees)

*Refrain* D F#m B7 Em Em7 Am



*Refrain* When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,

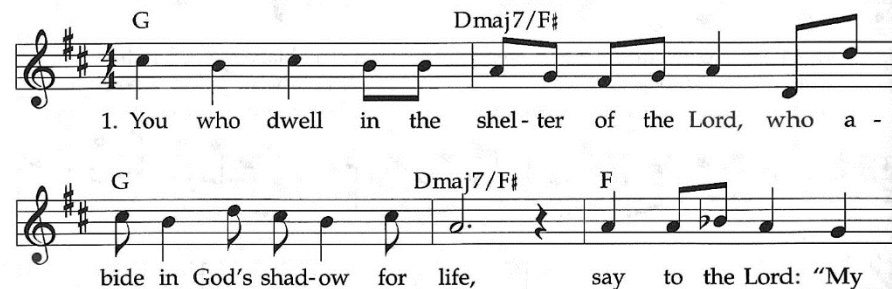
A7 D Bm7 Em9 A7 D G D



O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

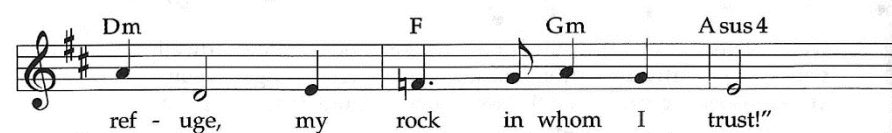
# 77 On Eagle's Wings

G Dmaj7/F#



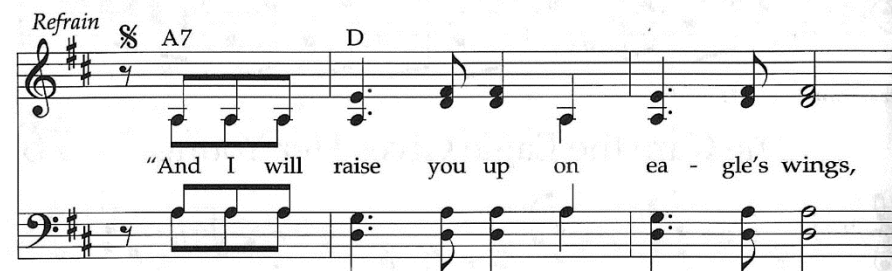
1. You who dwell in the shel- ter of the Lord, who a -

G Dmaj7/F# F Dm F Gm A sus4



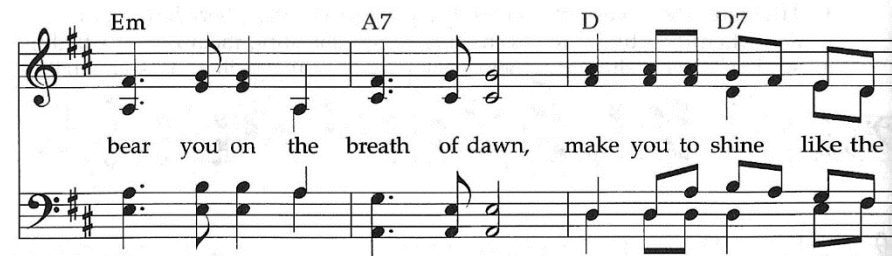
bide in God's shad- ow for life, say to the Lord: "My  
ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

*Refrain* A7 D



*Refrain* "And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,"

Em A7 D D7



bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

G A Bm Em F#m Em A7 D

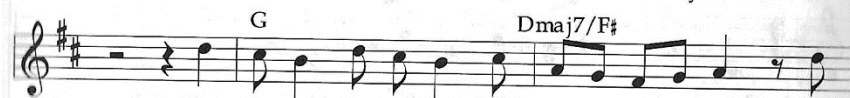


sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

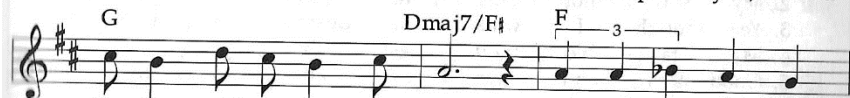
After last refrain



And hold you, hold you in the palm of my hand.



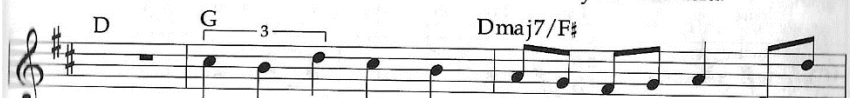
2. The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and



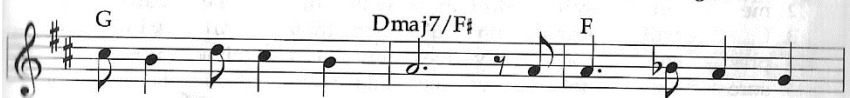
fam-ine will bring you no fear: un-der God's wings your



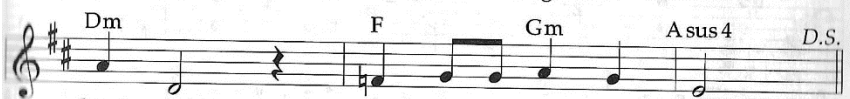
ref-uge, God's faith-ful-ness your shield.



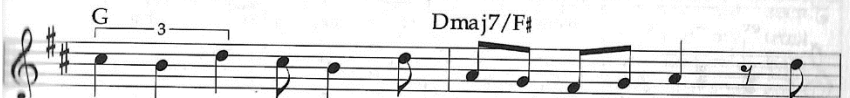
3. You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the



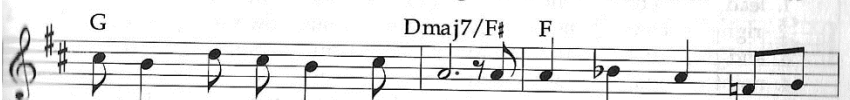
ar-row that flies by day; though thou-sands fall a-



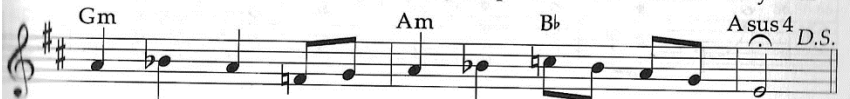
bout you, near you it shall not come.



4. For to God's an-gels is giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up-on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a- gainst a stone.