

The Falls Village Congregational Church
February 22, 2026, 10 a.m.
1st Sunday in Lent
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude – *A Celtic Set for Lent* - arr. T. Keesecker

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (Psalm 46):

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake.

One: Though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Gracious God, you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to be your beloved, nothing more and nothing less. Open our eyes to see you more fully and ourselves more clearly so that we might faithfully rely on your grace alone on this Lenten journey to the cross. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: #622** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we live in a wilderness world, filled with voices that call us to forget who we are and to question our dependence on you. We are drawn to worldly virtues; self-sufficiency that limits relationships, privilege that obscures kinship, and bread that does not satisfy. Forgive us for falling asleep to the devil’s lullaby. Wake us up by your voice that calls us through the waters of baptism into the dangerous wilderness of transformation. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon *(repeat as guided)*

By God’s grace, you are created again.

In Christ, you are accepted, no matter what.

Through the Holy Spirit, you are freed to truly live.

Be at peace and know you are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri**

#35 in hymnal

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ:**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us extend that same peace to one another.

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-10
Matthew 4:1-11

Sara Wardell
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall

Sermon: “A Lenten Memory”

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – Must Jesus Bear the Cross - arr. J. Martin

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn:** #180 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

***Benediction**

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

(forming a circle around the sanctuary, please sing:)

*God be with you till we meet again; by His counsel guide, uphold you,
with His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet.

Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

*For those willing and able, please stand.

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

Scripture Lessons for February 22, 2026

Genesis 3:1-10

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” **2** The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” **4** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, **5** for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,^[a] knowing good and evil.” **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” **10** He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” **4** But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” **7** Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, **9** and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.