

The Falls Village Congregational Church
March 1, 2026, 10 a.m., 2nd Sunday in Lent
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude – *Be Thou My Vision* - arr. M. Larkin

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (Psalm 121):

One: I lift up my eyes to the Hills, from where will my help come?

All: *My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

One: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

All: *The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

Opening Prayer (Unison):

God of love, we come by your invitation to feel your Spirit among us. We pray not so much to hear as to listen, not so much to see as to breathe your breath of life, not so much to understand as to experience the grace that calls each of us by name. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #540 “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

Prayer of Confession:

In the darkness, we try to feel our way through. We hear your voice calling us to new life, yet we cling to the old ways of living. You invite us to trust the waters that promise delivery, yet we fear the depth we cannot see. You want a relationship, yet we insist that it be on our terms. Create us anew. Breathe in us your life-giving breath. Guide us as children by the light of your grace and love. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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: Isaiah 6:1-10

John 3:1-16

Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall

Sermon: “Cup of Tea?”

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *I am Light, I am Life, I am Love* - M. McDonald

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(celebrant continues 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.

(back)

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

*Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Gracious God, through this bread and wine, you have reached out and reached in. Through this sacramental moment, you have shared the love that remains beyond explanation. Filled by your grace, we can only give you thanks and to pray for the vision and the wisdom to live life eternal, here and now. Amen.

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

*Closing Hymn: #595 “Be Thou My Vision”

*Benediction

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

(Forming a circle around the sanctuary, please join to 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.

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

Scripture Lessons for March 1, 2026

Isaiah 6:1-10

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” ⁹ And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’ ¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes so that they may not look with their eyes and listen with their ears and comprehend with their minds and turn and be healed.”

John 3:1-16

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born *from above*.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[h]

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.