

The Falls Village Congregational Church

March 15, 2026 10:00 a.m.

4th Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. D Elizabeth Mauro, Worship Leader

Greeting and Welcome

Ringling of the Church Bell

Prelude – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - arr. J. Carter

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; Sing your praise to the glory of God's name.

Together: The whole universe sings of God's power. Great are the works of God.

Leader: Gather to remember all that God has revealed. Come to discover what God is doing among us.

Together: We come to bless God in our midst, and to let our praise be heard. We worship today in gladness and reverence as God's people.

Prayer for God's Presence:

Together: God of all power and love, you are the origin, support, and destiny of everything that was, and is, and evermore shall be.

How can human minds comprehend your majesty? How dare human hearts approach your grandeur? Yet how can we ignore your bountiful goodness? How can we keep silent in the midst of your glory? Hear then our prayers as we come to this place to praise you. Fill our souls with your enlivening spirit so that when we have finished this time of worship, we may go forth new people in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

***Opening Hymn: #91 "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Together: O God, we confess that we are people often more intent on our own importance than on your vision for us. We like our favored position on this earth, and we often envy those who have even more than we. We confess that we get so caught up in our own lives that we forget to reach out to others with helping hands, that they might be cared for as Jesus has cared for us. We pray for pardon, for greater insight, and for another chance to live and serve with faithfulness. This we pray through Christ Jesus our Lord,
Amen.

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 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 Lesson: Matthew 16:21-23
Matthew 26:31-35

Sermon Lesson: Matthew 26:69-75 Rev. Dr. Mauro

Congregational Song of Prayer: #97 "Fairer Lord Jesus"

Sermon: "The Journey to the Cross: Peter"
The Rev. Dr. D. Elizabeth Mauro

THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH

The Offertory – *Be Still* - K. Marroli

Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #197 “*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*”

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 again, 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.*

Scripture Lessons for March 15, 2026

Matthew 16:21-23

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[a] to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men.”

Matthew 26:31-35

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night; for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter declared to him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴ Jesus said to him, “Truly, I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a maid came up to him, and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” ⁷¹ And when he went out to the porch, another maid saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁷² And again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the cock crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.