

The Falls Village Congregational Church
March 22, 2026, 10 a.m.
5th Sunday in Lent
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude – *The Quiet Journey* - T. Keesecker

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (Psalm 130):

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, hear my voice!

All: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

One: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand?

All: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

One: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in God's word, I hope.

All: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Lord, on our journey to the cross, we wait for you. We long for your mercy that carries us when we grow weary. We cherish the grace that only you provide. Come closer to unmask our true selves. Pour your Spirit into our hearts so that we might find the strength to kneel before you and the humility that brings us closer. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** #254 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, we confess our inclination to separate heaven from earth, the profane from the sacred, the holy from the ordinary. We confess that we seek assurance from our own righteousness and security in our isolation. God, be merciful to me, a sinner! Disturb our ease of self-sufficiency so that we might feel the pain you endure holding the brokenness of the world and our lives in your hands. 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: Micah 6:6-8

Luke 18:9-14

Mary Randolph

Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall

Sermon: “Holy Rivals”

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me* - arr. K. L. Scott

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:** #73 “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

***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.

*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 March 22, 2026

Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”