

The Falls Village Congregational Church
March 7, 2026, 10 a.m.
3rd Sunday in Lent
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude – *Andante* - L. Beethoven

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (Psalm 42):

One: As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

All: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

One: Why are you cast down, O my soul, why are you disquieted within me?

All: Hope in God; for again we shall praise him, our help and our God.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Lenten God, we come to this sacred time and place longing to be closer to you. We join together as a community to feel your holy presence among us. As we draw closer to your body, draw closer to us. Pour out your Spirit of grace and truth so that our deepest thirsts might be quenched by your eternal love. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: #557** “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Prayer of Confession:

In our strange lands and wilderness places, Lord, we get thirsty. We thirst for a church that challenges us as well as consoles us. We thirst for a faith in the midst of a world we can neither understand nor control. When too thirsty, we get quarrelsome and contentious. We throw stones of judgement and resentment. We distance ourselves from you and others. Draw closer so that we might drink from the well of your loving Spirit, the cup of your amazing grace. 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: John 4:5-15

Tracy Atwood

Exodus 17:1-7

Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall

Sermon: “Wilderness Faith”

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*- A. Birkhead-Flight

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: #546** “Amazing Grace”

***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 7, 2026

John 4:5-15

⁵ So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans). ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites 'quarreled' and 'tested' the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"