

The Falls Village Congregational Church
April 12, 2026, 10 a.m., 2nd Sunday of Easter
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude *Thine is the Glory* - arr. T. Keesecker

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

*Call to Worship (Psalm 16)

One: Oh, bless the Lord who gives us council.

All: *I keep the Lord before me; I shall not be moved.*

One: Therefore, our heart is glad, and our souls rejoice.

All: *For the Lord does not give us up to Sheol or let the faithful see the Pit.*

One: The Lord shows us the path of life!

All: *In God's presence there is fullness of joy; in His hands are pleasures evermore!*

*Opening Hymn #215 "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Opening Prayer

God of the Resurrection, we come with joy and thanksgiving to celebrate new life from an empty tomb. Come stand among us and speak your word of peace once again. Transform us into your resurrected body and guide us to extend your peace and forgiveness beyond these walls. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Easter, we celebrate the victory of your son over the power of death more readily than we acknowledge our own. We hear the Good News of an empty tomb, yet we choose to listen from behind locked doors. We prefer the comfort of our fear that keeps us safe from the risks that come with loving. In your freedom, break through to us. Reveal the wounds we share. Grant us the peace that sends us out into your light of grace, wholeness, and reconciliation. Amen.

Silent Confession

One: Lord in your mercy...

All: *...hear our prayer*

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 the Peace of Christ to one another.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9

Margo Lewis

John 20: 19-23

Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall

Sermon: "Easter People"

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory *Jesus is Alive! Alleluia!* - Bailes, arr. Shackley

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: #487** “Help Us to Accept Each Other”

***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.

**Those willing and able are invited to stand.*



WELCOME: We welcome those who are visiting us today! We are grateful that you are here and encourage you to join us for a time of fellowship after worship in Miner Hall (the room through the door to the left of the pulpit).

We would love to know you better. Please know that whomever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are always welcome here.

BIBLE STUDY: Please join us on Wednesdays (starting this coming week, on April 15) at 1:30 pm in Miner Hall for a study on the Gospel According to Matthew. All are invited.

OFFERINGS: Any tithes, offerings, and/or prayer requests may be left in the plates at either entrance to the sanctuary.

Scripture Lessons for April 12, 2026

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the snake, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."