

The Falls Village Congregational Church
May 17, 2026, 10 a.m., Ascension Sunday!
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ring of the Bell

Prelude – *Come Down, O Love Divine* - arr. T. Keesecker

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

***Call to Worship (Psalm 47)**

One: Clap your hands, all people; shout to God with loud songs of Joy!

All: *For the Holy God, the Most High, is awesome, a great ruler over all the earth.*

One: God has gone up with a shout, with the sound of a trumpet!

All: *Sing praises to God, sing praises!*

***Opening Hymn #517.** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Opening Prayer

Frank Hadsell

Holy God, in this precious hour, we pause somewhere between the past and the future to be washed by your grace, to be nourished by your Spirit, to be guided by your love. Draw us closer to you and one another, wrap us in your mercy and bind us as one, that we might become your Body; living, breathing, sharing, loving. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Love divine, you have clothed us with hope, faith, and love, yet we fall short as a community. Where we could have been more compassionate, we have shown indifference. Where we could have offered our voices in protest or support, we have remained silent. Where we might have sown seeds of understanding and love, we have scattered discord and confusion. Lift us up, Lord, that we might take on the mantle of your ministry; living more fully, loving more deeply. Amen.

Silent Confession

One: Lord in your mercy...

All: *...hear our prayer. Amen.*

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.*

(you are invited to offer Christ’s peace to your neighbor)

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23
Acts 1:1-11

Linda Ryan
Rev. Dr. Kirk Hall

Sermon: “Finding the Body”

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *We All Are One in Mission* - arr. J. Martinson

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: #272** “The Church’s One Foundation”

***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 rise in body or spirit.*

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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 at 1:30 pm in Miner Hall for a study on the Gospel According to Matthew. This week, we are taking a look at Matthew’s chapters 16:13-18:35 and Matthew’s ideas of “discipleship” and “life together.” 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 May 17, 2026

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."