

The Falls Village Congregational Church
September 27, 2026, 10 a.m.
18th Sunday after Pentecost
Drake Smith, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude – *Lead Me Lord/He Leadeth Me*- M. Larkin

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

***Call to Worship**

Trust in the Lord and do good.

May the Lord give strength to the people!

O taste and see that the Lord is good!

God is our refuge and strength.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

***Opening Hymn: # 340 “Softly and Tenderly”**

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

Most Wonderful God, you have so carefully made us and although we cannot fathom the fullness of you, we can yet love you. Gratefully, we bring our little lives to you, asking that our worship may arise from love and be shaped by love, and be directed towards that larger loving which is our soul's desire. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Holy God, we know that in so many ways We have run from you,

We have ignored your call,

We have closed our eyes to your presence,

We have disbelieved your mercy,

We have disregarded your words,

We have belittled ourselves,

We have forsaken others.

So we ask, once again, for your forgiveness. We ask you to stay with us as we turn away from what is wrong and hurtful to what is bright and life-giving. And hear now our silent prayers.

Silent Confession

One: ...Lord in your mercy,

All: *hear our prayer. Amen.*

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 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: Daniel 3:1-18
Daniel 3:19-30

Susan Kelsey
Drake Smith

Sermon: “Through the Fire”

Drake Smith

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *Song of Fellowship*- Besig & Price

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

***Benediction**

[illegible]

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

Scripture Lessons for September 27, 2026

Daniel 3:1-30

The Golden Image

3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. 2 Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to assemble the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 3 Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, were assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 4 And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, 5 that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up; 6 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." 7 Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. 9 They said to King

Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live for ever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image; 11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no heed to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. Then they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image which I have made, well and good; but if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace; and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.[a] 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

Daniel 3:19-30

The Fiery Furnace

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was wont to be heated. ²⁰ And he ordered certain mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their mantles,^[b] their tunics,^[c] their hats, and their other garments, and they were cast into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's order was strict and the furnace very hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He said to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ He answered, "But I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of

those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their mantles^[d] were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. ²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set at nought the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.