

The Falls Village Congregational Church

October 4, 2026 10:00 a.m.

19th Sunday after Pentecost

The Reverend Dr. Eileen L. Epperson, Guest Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Church Bell

Prelude – *Opening Prayer* - E. Allyn

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Rowena Fenstermacher

Leader: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

People: God leads us in paths that give life.

Leader: The teachings of God are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

People: God leads us from confusion toward wisdom.

Leader: The ways of God rejoice the heart and enlighten the eyes.

People: God calls us into freedom and teaches us how to live.

Leader: Come, let us listen for the wisdom that sets us free.

People: Come, let us worship the God who leads us into life.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Rowena Fenstermacher

Gracious God, you have called us out of bondage and into freedom, not to wander without direction, but to walk in your ways. Open our hearts to your wisdom, our eyes to your light, and our lives to your guidance. May your Word revive our souls and delight our hearts as we worship you. Amen.

Gathering Hymn #287 “As a Chalice Cast of Gold”

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of life, you have shown us that we have choices that lead toward and away from our spirit’s freedom. We often pay no attention to inner promptings and resist Divine Guidance. We do not discern whether our wishes and desires are for Wisdom or for personal safety. We confuse our independence for true freedom. Forgive us when we wander from what gives life—when we move

to protect ourselves, avoid our neighbors, and ignore our world. Turn our hearts again toward you, that our eyes may be clear. Amen.

Silent Confession

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.

TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Scripture Readings

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-19

Rowena Fenstermacher

Luke 10: 25–28

Eileen Epperson

Sermon:

“The Law That Gives Life”

The Rev. Dr. Eileen L. Epperson

Pastoral Prayer

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn of Preparation #420 “I Come With Joy”

Invitation to Communion

The Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your heads.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing.

(The Minister continues the 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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our individual relationship to God, but hold the cup so we may drink together, as a sign of our unity before our God)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #602 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

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.*

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.

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

Scripture Lessons for October 4, 2026

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-19

20 And God spoke all these words, saying,

² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ “You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

⁷ “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸ “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work;

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

¹³ “You shall not kill.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

¹⁸ Now when all the people perceived the thunderings and the lightnings and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled; and they stood afar off, ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will hear; but let not God speak to us, lest we die.”

Luke 10: 25–28

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

10²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered right; do this, and you will live.”