

The Falls Village Congregational Church

August 02, 2026 10:00 a.m.

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. D Elizabeth Mauro, Worship Leader

Greeting and Welcome

Ring of the Church Bell

Prelude – *All Creatures of Our God and King* - arr. J. Carter

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Leader: O Lord, we rejoice in your spirit that has gathered us here.

Together: Each of us today is surrounded by others whose hearts yearn for you.

Leader: In this merciful fellowship, we find your grace.

Together: Bless us with new joy for our church, new commitment for our Lord and new hope for all the days ahead.

Prayer for God's Presence:

Leader: O God, although we have never seen you your presence is made known to us in the best of all human relationships.

Together: Today and all days, we praise you for your faithfulness through all generations.

Leader: And so we worship you now in song and prayer and gift.

Together: And we ask that you bestow a blessing upon each one of us, that we may see our lives more clearly, love one another more dearly and give ourselves more lovingly to you and the world around us, Amen.

Hymn: *The Church's One Foundation* #272

Prayer of Confession (the Coventry Cathedral Prayer)

Leader: The hatred which divides nation from nation
race from race, class from class,

Together: Lord, forgive.

Leader: The covetous desires of people and nations
to possess what is not their own,

Together: Lord, forgive.

Leader: The greed which exploits the labors of people
and lays waste to the earth,

Together: Lord, forgive.

Leader: Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Together: Lord, forgive.

Leader: Our indifference to the plight of the homeless
and of the refugee,

Together: Lord, forgive.

Leader: The pride which leads to trust in ourselves
and not in you,

Together: Lord, forgive.

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.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: Mark 12:28-34a

Chuck Lewis

Sermon Lesson: Galatians 5:1; 13-26 Rev. Dr. D. Elizabeth Mauro

Congregational Song of Prayer: # 586 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Sermon: "Let Freedom Ring"

The Rev. Dr. D. Elizabeth Mauro

THE CHURCH RESPONDS IN FAITH

The Offertory – *Song of Fellowship* - Besig and Price

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation: #416 *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*

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 God)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

O Lord, by the abundance of your grace, found in this bread and cup, we have been renewed. In the remembering, we have been

encouraged. In the sharing together of this meal, we have been blessed. For this extravagant gift, we give you thanks and pray that as we go from this place, the hospitality we have received here might be our gift to all whom we meet. Amen

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #517 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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 place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.

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 August 2, 2026

Mark 12:28-34

The First Commandment

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that he is one, and there is no other but he; ³³ and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any question.

Galatians 5:1; 13-26

5 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another take heed that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, ²¹ envy,^[a] drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another.