

The Falls Village Congregational Church
August 30, 2026 10 a.m.
14th Sunday after Pentecost
The Reverend Jake Miles Joseph, Guest Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude – *For the Beauty of the Earth* - arr. J. Carter

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship –

Mary Randolph

Leader: From ancient roots, God brings forth new life.

People: From what seems finished, God creates a new beginning.

Leader: Isaiah saw a shoot growing from the stump of Jesse, a sign that hope can take root even when the old tree has fallen.

People: We come trusting that God is still growing something new.

Leader: Here in Connecticut, where an old oak still lives in our common memory, we remember that trees can carry stories and hope long after their branches are gone.

People: May we be rooted in hope and open to new life.

Leader: When the way ahead seems uncertain, when familiar things have fallen, when all we can see is the stump—

People: We will watch for the green shoot.

All: Come, Connecticut people of God. Let us worship the One who brings hope from ancient roots. Amen.

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Gracious God, we come seeking you in the midst of our joy and brokenness, as individuals and as a community. Move among us during this time of worship. By the power of your Holy Spirit, turn us from preoccupation with ourselves to your truth, in our thoughts, prayers, and song, and in all our living. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn #61 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you bring new life from old roots and green shoots from fallen trees. We confess that we do not always trust what you are growing. We cling to old branches, overlook new life, and fail to bear the fruits of justice, mercy, and love. Forgive us. Root us again in your grace, and give us courage to grow toward your light. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading - Psalm 1:1-3

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:

The Peace of Christ be with you

And, also, with you

Let us pass the peace

Scripture: Psalm 105: 1-6

Jack Wilcox

Issaih 11:1-10

The Rev. Jake Joseph

Prayer

Sermon: "The Tree that Saved Connecticut"

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Offertory – *For the Beauty of the Earth* - arr. S. DeFord

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

Hymn – #638 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

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.

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.

Your tithes and offerings may be left in the plates at either entrance to the sanctuary.

Scripture Lessons for August 30, 2026

PSALM 105: 1-6

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
² Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
⁴ Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.
⁵ Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
⁶ you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.

Issiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow[a] 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[b] 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 asp, 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.