

First Congregational Church of Pelham

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church

"Sharing What God's Love Looks Like"

May 11, 2025

What To Do When You Have To Listen

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Pastor: Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight Director of Music: Tom Seniow
Organist: Carolyn (Sue) Howard Bell Choir Director: Sharon Hone
Administrator: Stephanie Noel Sexton: Lupe Nova
Deacons: Margaret Oxner, Dot Hill, David Hennessey

~ WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE ~

+Please rise in body or spirit.

TOLLING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT "Jesus, Our Savior, Is Standing At The Door" Clifford McCormick

CALL TO WORSHIP

Open unto me – light for my darkness. **Open unto me – courage for my fear.**

Open unto me – hope for my despair. **Open unto me – peace for my turmoil.**

Open unto me – joy for my sorrow. **Open unto me – strength for my weakness.** Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion. **Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins.**

Open unto me – tenderness for my toughness. **Open unto me – love for my hates. Lord, Lord, open unto me!**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

+HYMN "Sanctuary" #555 sung 3 times

INVOCATION Howard Thurman

Holy One, we bow our hearts before you this day. Strengthen us in our innermost being and dwell in our hearts through faith. May we be rooted and grounded in Christ, whose love is beyond all knowledge. Help us comprehend even the smallest part of the beautiful grace. Grant that we may experience the fullness of your presence with us. Amen.

WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

+SINGING PRAISES TO GOD "Gloria Patri" #558

***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***

~ WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US ~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

St John Chrysostom

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear your Word, and understand and do your will, for I am a sojourner upon the Earth. Hide not your commandments from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of your Law. Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of your wisdom. AMEN

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-17

CHORAL ANTHEM "Lift Thine Eyes To The Mountains"

Mendelssohn/arranged by John Bertalot

"Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains whence cometh help. Thy help cometh from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He hath said: "Thy foot shall not be moved; thy Keeper will never slumber."

REFLECTION

"Holy Common Ground"

+HYMN

"Holy Ground"

#554

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD WITH OUR PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS ~

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER

"Through It All

Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in

Chords: Eb, Eb7, Ab, Fm7, Bb, Cm/Bb

Je - sus, I've learned to trust in God; through it all,

Chords: Bb7, Ab/Bb, Eb, Cm, Bb, Eb, Eb7

through it all, I've learned to de - pend up - on his Word.

Chords: Ab, Fm7, Bb, Cm/Bb, Bb7, Ab/Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

***Sweeter as the years go by, Sweeter as the years go by,
Richer, fuller, deeper, Jesus' love is sweeter, Sweeter as the years go by.***

SHARING OUR PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

#412

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

+SUNG RESPONSE

"The Doxology"

#563

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious Lord, you have lavished upon us the riches of your glory. As Jesus fed the masses, providing enough for all with more than enough left over, so you have fed us and provided for us. You shelter us, care for us, and bring us safely to each stop on our journey. As you have given to us out of your abundance, we return our offering to you with praise and thanksgiving. In the name of the Savior, we pray. Amen.

~ We Go Forth to Share What God's Love Looks Like ~

+HYMN

"This Is The Day"

#277

+BENEDICTION

+SUNG BENEDICTION "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#47

"Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

POSTLUDE