

First Congregational Church of Pelham  
United Church of Christ  
**An Open and Affirming Church**  
*"Sharing What God's Love Looks Like"*

**Sunday, November 19, 2023**

***Dedicated to Discipleship - Week 3***



Ministers: All the 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: Ken Henderson and David Willkerson

***~ We Gather in God's Presence ~***

*+Please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

Introit

"Enter Now The Gates"

Douglas E. Wagner

Call to Worship

written by John Birch

Let us never give up praying and working for justice,  
**or the oppressed in this world will one day ask us 'Why?'**

Let us never give up praying and working for fairness,  
**or the hungry of this world will one day ask us 'Why?'**

Let us never give up praying and working for healing,  
**or the sick in this world will one day ask us 'Why?'**

Let us never give up praying and working,  
**for to give up is to deny our faith in a God who answers prayer.**

+Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

#84

## Prayer of Confession

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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***

## Prayer for Illumination

**Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock, and our redeemer. As we approach your Word, may we be ready to receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.

At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed.

He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up."

Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up.

Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.

This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Rev Carlos Jauhola-Straight

+Hymn

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

insert

**~ We Respond to God with our Prayers and Offerings ~**

Prayers of God's People

Sung Call to Prayer "'Tis the Gift To Be Simple"

#391

*Silence*

Sharing our Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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 and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

Offering Our Gifts to God

Dedicated to Discipleship Moment

Kim Hirsch

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

+Doxology

#563

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter; One God triune, whom we adore. Amen.***

+Prayer of Dedication

**Lord, we dedicate our all to you; not just the money that we no longer call ours - whether it's sitting in the offering basket or whizzing along digital paths, but our thoughts, our plans, our time, our dreams, our days. It's all yours, God. It always was. Help us to rejoice in that. Amen.**

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

+Hymn

"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

#200

Benediction

Sung Benediction "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" #580 last line

***"God be with you till we meet again"***

## ***THIS WEEK***

- Sunday, Nov 19 **Worship** 10am
- Monday, Nov 20 **Morning Prayer** 7:30 am Zoom ID: contact Carlos  
**Bell Choir** 6:30 pm  
**Pub Theology** 6:30pm - Martha's Exchange
- Tuesday, Nov 21 **Knitters** 1pm  
**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** 7pm
- Sunday, Nov 26 **Worship** 10am  
**Celebration Brunch** following worship
- Monday, Nov 27 **Morning Prayer** 7:30 am Zoom ID: contact Carlos  
**Bell Choir Concert** 7 pm - Festival of Trees  
**Book Group** 7pm
- Tuesday, Nov 28 **Knitters** 1pm  
**Church Council** 7pm
- Wednesday, Nov 29 **Lazarus House Food Pantry** 8:30 am - 12 noon  
**Coffeebreak** 1pm  
**Chancel Choir** 7:30pm
- Saturday, Dec 2 **Men's Breakfast** 8:30am  
**Intergenerational Advent Event** 12 noon
- Sunday, Dec 3 **Worship** 10am ADVENT 1
- Monday, Dec 4 **Morning Prayer** 7:30 am Zoom ID: contact Carlos  
**Bell Concert** 7pm - Nesmith Library - Windham
- Tuesday, Dec. 5 **Bell Concert** 7pm Hampstead Public Library - Hampstead