

# First Congregational Church of Pelham

United Church of Christ

**An Open and Affirming Church**

*"Sharing What God's Love Looks Like"*

**Lent 4 March 19, 2023**

*+Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

EVOKING THE MYSTERY "Come and Rest" Chuck Bell and Marcia McFee

"Come and rest. Come and listen. Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker.  
Come and rest. Come and listen. There's a wisdom deep within that calls us closer."

BIDDING PRAYER

written by Katherine Hawker

**From fears that paralyze us; Heal us, O Lord.**

**From illness that strangles us; Heal us, O Lord.**

**From sorrows that weigh us down; Heal us, O Lord.**

**From aimlessness that plagues our visions; Heal us, O Lord.**

+HYMN

"He Touched Me"

#399

EXAMEN

For that which, then, I thought was right...**have mercy, God.** *[pause]*

For that which, now, I regret... **forgive me, God.** *[pause]*

For that which, hence, I know not what to do...**guide me, God.** *[pause]*

Come and rest, come and listen. Know that grace, forgiveness and guidance are available to you at each and every moment that we turn to receive them.

**Thanks be to God.**

TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

+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***

THE PSALMIST'S PRAYER

Psalm 22: 1-5; 25-26

My God! My God, why have you left me all alone?

Why are you so far from saving me—

**so far from my anguished groans?**

My God, I cry out during the day, but you don't answer;

**even at night time I don't stop.**

You are the holy one, enthroned.

## **You are Israel's praise.**

Our ancestors trusted you—

they trusted you and you rescued them;

they cried out to you and they were saved;

**they trusted you and they weren't ashamed.**

I offer praise in the great congregation because of you;

I will fulfill my promises

**in the presence of those who honor God.**

Let all those who are suffering eat and be full!

**Let all who seek praise the Lord!**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 5: 24-34

So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well." Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

MUSIC FOR AN INWARD JOURNEY "His Grace"

arr by Harry Norred

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all my sin and shame to bear! Now my life has real meaning; through His love I've learned to share. Because He touched me, Oh He touched me, and oh the joy that floods my soul. Something happened, and now I know He touched me and made me whole. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound! Grace that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found; I was blind but now I see. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun. (He touched me with His love and grace.) We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. Praise God for amazing grace!"

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 5: 24-34

REFLECTION "Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing"

HYMN

"God, We Sense Your Peace and Power (Touch)"  
NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

God, we sense your peace and power  
In this place we love so much.  
We are moved by gentle fragrance;  
We are blessed by healing touch.  
In these pews we hear the gospel;  
We see life beyond compare.  
Here we gather at your table,  
Tasting love in meals we share.

Jesus taught, and crowds went with him;  
They knew illness, grief and strife.  
Twelve years sick, a suffering woman  
Hoped his touch would change her life.  
Jesus stopped to heal and bless her;  
He healed Jairus' daughter, too.  
God we seek your gift of healing;  
Touch our lives and make us new.

God, your gift of touch can heal us  
Through a hug or kind embrace.  
When we share the peace you give us,  
It can change us, by your grace.  
When we offer prayers for healing,  
Laying hands on those in need,  
By your loving, gentle caring,  
Those who hurt are blessed and freed.

[https://www.carolynshymns.com/peace\\_and\\_power\\_touch.html](https://www.carolynshymns.com/peace_and_power_touch.html)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Sung Call to Prayer "Meet Me Here "

insert

*Silence*

Lighting a Candle

Prayer

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

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

**God of abundance, as we journey through Lent, may we continue to remember those around the world who are hungry, in body, mind, spirit, and relationship. Those who don't have the opportunity to dream, and all those who long for you. We pray that these, our tithes and offerings, may be a promise of ongoing commitment to our one human family. May we always answer Jesus' call to reach out beyond ourselves and to share your abundance. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

+HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

#334

+BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

"Send Me Jesus"

#340

**"Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me Lord"**

POSTLUDE

**Bid-It-To-Win-It Sunday, TODAY**

**Wednesday, March 22 Potluck 5:30pm & Spiritual Workshop 6pm**

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

Deacons: Harmony Campbell and Dan Murphy