

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

Tending the New Creation

July 7, 2024

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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

Church Administrator: Stephanie Noel Sexton: Lupe Nova

Deacons: Paula Fowlie and David Wilkerson

~ We Gather in God's Presence ~
+Please rise in body or spirit.

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson

This new day is fresh with possibility to encounter the Living Christ.

With bright eyes, let us search.

This new day is fresh with possibility to understand the Living Christ.

With engaged minds, let us ponder.

This new day is fresh with possibility to be moved by the Living Christ.

With compassionate hearts, let us feel.

This new day is fresh with possibility to respond to the Living Christ.

With solid devotion, let us follow.

This new day is fresh with possibility to serve the Living Christ.

With humble intention, let us act.

This new day is fresh with possibility to praise the Living Christ.

With strong voices, let us sing.

+Hymn

"Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult"

#314

Prayer of Confession

written by Moira Laidlaw

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

Pause for a time of reflection

We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement; the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised. Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives becomes parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry. Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places, strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously, to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life. Amen.

Assurance

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

Gospel

Mark 2:23 - 3:6

Epistle

2 Corinthians 4: 5-12

Musical Reflection

Reflection

"Re-Creating the Sabbath"

Hymn

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

#524

Communion

The table of bread and cup are now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus And with all those who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth in which Christ became incarnate. So, come to this table, you who have much faith And you who would like to have more; You who have been to this sacrament often, And you who have not been for a long time; You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ himself who invites us to meet him here now.

Blessed are you, O God

For you have brought forth bread from the earth.

Blessed are you, O God,

For you have created the fruit of the vine

In the beginning you watered the earth that all might have food and drink.

You gave to your servant, Sarah, bread to strengthen her family on their journey, And filled their cup to make them glad.

You called Moses and his people out of bondage And refreshed them with food in the wilderness.

You gave Mary and Joseph their daily bread to share.

And here at your table you offer us bread and cup for the journey to nourish us.

And so with all our siblings, before us and beside us, near and far.

We join in the praise of your unending greatness:

**Holy, holy holy, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Glory be to you, O God most high.**

Among friends, gathered round a table Jesus took bread, and, having blessed it, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying,

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, gave you thanks, gave it to them saying,

Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, Which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

So, now, following Jesus' example, we take this bread and this cup; the ordinary things of the world through which God will bless us.

And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us also celebrate God's goodness

Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now,

As we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, Breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, That they may be heaven's food for us.

Renewing, sustaining and making us whole, that we may be your body on earth, loving and caring in the world.

Look, the bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world. Here is Christ, coming to us in bread and wine

The gifts of God for the people of God.

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: Strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other, through Jesus Christ. Amen

~ We Respond to God's Word with our Prayers and Offerings ~

Prayers of God's People

Sung Call to Prayer

"He Is Lord"

#79

Silence

Sharing our Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

#412

Prayer Response

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

+Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

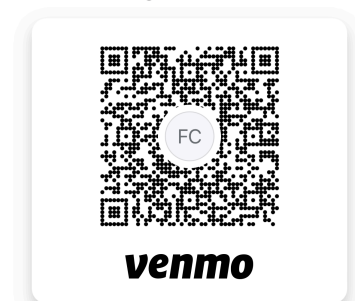
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, comforter;

One God triune, whom we adore. Amen.

First Church
@First-Church



+Prayer of Dedication ~ written by Katherine Hawker

God bless the offerings shared this day be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that Christ's love may be realized anew in this world. Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden. Amen.

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

+Hymn

"When We Are Living"

#342

Benediction

Sung Benediction

"I Saw The Light"

#320

"Praise the Lord, I saw the light."

WEEKLY

Morning Prayer - Monday & Wednesday 7:30 am Zoom ID: contact church office

Knitters - Tuesday 1pm

Lazarus House Food Pantry 8:30 am - 12 noon

Coffeebreak - Wednesday 1pm

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, July 7	Worship with Celebration of Communion- 10am
Sunday, July 14	Worship 10am
Monday, July 15	Pub Theology 6:30pm - Martha's Exchange, Nashua
Thursday, July 18	Lazarus House Breakfast 7:30am
Sunday, July 21	Worship 10am Coffeehouse Worship in Fellowship Hall Vespers 7pm - Rachael Grosman
Sunday, July 28	Worship - 10am Vespers 7pm - Maryanne Masterson & Denise Duff

