

First Congregational Church of Pelham

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Church - Sharing What God's Love Looks Like

August 16, 2026 - Jesus Forgives Us and Tells Us to Forgive

+Please rise in body or spirit.

TOLLING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The world tells us to hoard our power and count our grievances.

Jesus calls us to radical forgiveness, to dismantle the cycle of violence.

We gather in the love of a God who demands justice for the poor and grace for the broken.

Our forgiveness is our resistance; our unity is our strength. Come, let us worship the God of liberation, grace, and life!

+HYMN

"The Master Came to Bring Good News"

#164

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have shown us the power of unconditional love. Remind us that forgiveness is a daily choice. When we are wronged, give us a spirit of mercy. When we wrong others, give us a spirit of humility. Free us from the heavy burden of bitterness. May we be a place of second chances, where love always wins over judgment. 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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21–22

MUSICAL REFLECTION

REFLECTION

+HYMN

"This is a Day of New Beginnings "

insert

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

#403

SILENCE

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

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

Creator God, Source of Life, we offer these gifts as a joyful reflection of your presence in our lives. Use these gifts to heal creation, comfort the hurting, and advance love and justice in our community. Bless both the gift and the giver as we partner with you to transform the world. Amen.

+HYMN

"Shoulder to Shoulder"

#499

+BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

#432

"Feed me till I want no more."

AUGUST MISSION - END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER

End 68 Hours of Hunger is dedicated to ending childhood weekend hunger. It specifically tackles the 68-hour gap that food-insecure children face between receiving a free school lunch on Friday and a free school breakfast on Monday. Your generous financial support will empower End 68 Hours to purchase much needed food!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gather on the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present, who have ongoing cultural and spiritual connections.. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the aki (land), nebi (water), olakwikak (flora), awaasak (fauna) and the aln8bak (people) who have been stewards of these throughout the generations.

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Pastor: Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight

Director of Music: Tom Seniow

Accompanist: Carolyn (Sue) Howard

Bell Choir Director: Sharon Hone

Administrator: Stephanie Noel

Sexton: Lupe Nava

Deacons: Dan Murphy, Dot Hill, and Doug Lumb



venmo

This Is a Day of New Beginnings 495

Eb Fm Gm Abmaj7 Eb/Bb
 1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, Love's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

Fm/Ab Cm Bb Bb/Ab Eb/G Fm/Ab
 mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

Gm7(b5) C7 Fm Eb/G Abm 1-3 4
 Bb Eb
 bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - f'rence, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings; our God is mak - ing all things new.

For Communion, alternate stanza 4

In faith we'll gath-er round the ta-ble
 to taste and share what Love can do.
 This is a day of new be-gin-nings;
 our God is mak-ing all things new.

Words: Brian Wren, 1936–

Music: Carlton R. Young, 1926–

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 Music © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

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9.8.9.8.

BEGINNINGS