

# First Congregational Church of Pelham

United Church of Christ

**An Open and Affirming Church**

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

May 4, 2025

## What to Do When You Have to Wait

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, Paula Fowlie

**~ 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

Welcome to this community of faith!

**We come seeking God's love.**

God's love is here for you.

**Help us to understand how we are connected to God.**

We abide in Christ Jesus, in love and compassion.

**May our spirits be renewed and our connection to God be strengthened through our worship today. Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

+HYMN "Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts To Heaven" #201

LITANY OF CONFESSION

**Amazing God, we come together today grateful for this community of faith. We welcome old and new friends to this time of worship. May we celebrate the past that has set the foundation for today and step joyfully into this new season of learning and love in Jesus' name, Amen.**

+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 GATHER AT CHRIST'S TABLE** ~

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Emmaus"

Tony Alonso

*"As we journeyed on our way and remembered Christ our friend, our eyes were slow to recognize, our hearts to comprehend. Now a stranger at our side, we talked with him on our way of all the things that happened that led us to this day. Refrain: In the breaking of the bread we have known you, O Lord. By Your word have we been led to the breaking of the bread. Then He opened up The Word of the prophets who had said, "Your Savior first must suffer then rise from the dead." As our journey found its end and the dark of night drew near, we told the stranger, "Stay with us till morning light appears." Refrain. It was at table then we knew why our hearts were set ablaze: This stranger was our brother arisen from the grave! Refrain."*

COMMUNION

from enfleshed

The Holy One be with you **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the One who guides our life together.

**It is our joy to offer gratitude and praise.**

God, you never promised us that way would be clear. You have, however, created us in your image – the image of One who is Wisdom, who is Love, who is Courage. You breathed your life into us with the assurance that we have, within and around us, everything we need to be your faithful people. Though we sometimes act in disregard for your call on our collective life, still you show up with and for us, relentlessly. And so we join with all the saints who have gone before in gratitude for your abiding presence:

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and presence**

**all that is, is full of your glory**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Love**

**Sacred is your presence and blessed is Christ with us.**

Through the life of Jesus we saw an example of what it means to navigate an uncertain path, practice creative ministry, and face with courage and compassion all the barriers that work against your Spirit on the move.

Jesus lived and breathed a ministry rooted in your Love for all people. He prioritized the lives of those who are suffering and showed us what it looks like to be with and for one another, even under great distress. Though evil attempted to silence his proclamation of an all inclusive Kindom of God, not even death could keep Love from growing.

On the night in which he was arrested, he gathered among friends for a meal.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and shared it with his disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of Christ with us, and in the assurance of your Love persistent, we offer our lives, our ministries, and our church in the service of your healing work as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit on this community and these gifts. Make them a taste of your Kingdom through Christ with us, that we might leave the Table both nourished by your Love and still hungry for justice for all your people.

**~ 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

Luke 24:13-32

REFLECTION

"Thinning the Veil!"

+HYMN

"Through it All"

insert

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

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER

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

**Everlasting God, you are kind and trustworthy. Every day you graciously provide what we need from your abundance. We are grateful that you bring healing and hope for our life as individuals and as a faith community. Accept these monetary gifts and offerings to strengthen our church's outreach to our neighbors. May more people come to know you and your love through our ministries. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

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

+HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#47

+BENEDICTION

+SUNG BENEDICTION "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#47

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

POSTLUDE