

First Congregational Church of Pelham

United Church of Christ

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

March 15, 2026 Lent Week Four "Look for the Shepherd"

+Please rise in body or spirit.

TOLLING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THRESHOLD

"Show Us How to Love"

Mark Miller & Lindy Thompson

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Open your hearts to God's love today. **We journey with Jesus to places unknown.**

Let us trust in God's mercy and love. **Let us worship and rejoice!**

+HYMN

"Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

#431

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Merciful God, we bring our deepest longings, and our failed attempts at satisfying them. We have often looked for love, for acceptance and security, in formulas that will assure success at the expense of staying tuned to the Spirit's nudge. We yearn for lives that matter, we desire relationships that thrive, we want less regret. At times we fail to see that you have already given us what really matters: your love and acceptance. You provide opportunities all around us to make a difference in the lives of others. You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to do better. In this silence, we bring to you our pleas for openness to a different way of living.

Silence

We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision to the ways of love created by God, embodied in Jesus, and already moving in us by the Spirit. We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

ANTHEM

"The King Of Love My Shepherd Is"

H.R. Shelley

"The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me, and on His shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with Thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me. Thou spreadest a table in my sight, Thy unction grace bestoweth, and O the transport of delight, with which my cup overfloweth. And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever."

"COOPERATIVE SCRABBLE"

+SINGING PRAISES TO GOD

"Jesus Loves Me"

#462 vs 1

***Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.***

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SCRIPTURE

John 9: 1-41

REFLECTION

+HYMN

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

#151

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER

"Search Me, O God"

#415 vs 4

SILENCE

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER In your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*SUNG*) #412

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

+SUNG RESPONSE

"A Lenten Doxology"

tune #563

***Praise God, the source of love's design, Praise Spirit, gift of love divine;
O Holy Three, our hearts restore, To love the Christ whom we adore. Amen.***

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous Creator we offer our gifts not as a transaction, but as a commitment to justice. May this treasure—and our own lives—be transformed into tools for healing, liberation, and tender care for your hurting world. We dedicate these offerings to the work of creative compassion, challenging us to love as Jesus loved. Amen.

+HYMN

"Hymn of Covenant"

#511

+BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world, looking for love in all the right places!

We will look for signs of The Thirst-Quencher, and we will pour out the life-giving water of love wherever we go!

+SUNG BENEDICTION

"I Surrender All"

#369

"I surrender all."

POSTLUDE

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

Seminarian: Heather Ivone Milliken

Director of Music: Tom Seniow

Accompanist: Carolyn (Sue) Howard

Bell Choir Director: Sharon Hone

Administrator: Stephanie Noel

Sexton: Lupe Nova

Deacons: Harmony Campbell, Pat Colarusso, Dot Hill



venmo