

First Congregational Church of Pelham

United Church of Christ

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

October 12, 2025 "Imagine the People of God"

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Pastor: Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight

Seminarian: Heather Ivone Milliken

Director of Music: Tom Seniow

Organist: Carolyn (Sue) Howard

Bell Choir Director: Sharon Hone

Administrator: Stephanie Noel

Sexton: Lupe Nova

Deacons: Dot Hill, Harmony Campbell

+Please rise in body or spirit.

TOLLING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THRESHOLD

"Imagine the People Of God"

Mark A. Miller

"Imagine the people of God: believing, receiving, becoming God's love; caring, sharing God's love in the world. Seeking the way of Jesus Christ, trusting the courage to change, being God's love with our neighbors and friends."

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Imagine the people of God. Imagine us, with our different backgrounds and stories, coming together as one.

We imagine your people, Creator God, and we gather to celebrate the diversity among us.

Imagine the people of God sharing with one another. Imagine us building a community where all are welcomed and where the love of Christ is known.

You have made us one in Christ, and we find strength in our unity.

Imagine the people of God united in a shared purpose, working for justice and peace. **We are your servants, Holy One. Help us to dedicate all that we are to you.** Let us worship the God who gathers us in our differences, makes us one in Christ, and sends us out with a renewed sense of purpose. Come, let us worship together. **Amen.**

+HYMN

"The Servant Song"

#442 verses 1-4

LITANY OF CONFESSION

When "doing the supposed right thing" has got us all wrapped up in "wrong," **Let it go.**

When rules reign and people suffer for it, **Let it go.**

When uncertainty makes us frozen, and we can't seem to let love thaw us out, **Let it go.**

Resentment. Disillusionment. Fear. Rage. The need to be right. All that imprisons us, whatever it is, In the stillness of this moment, we begin to let it go.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Believe that God's grace is great and receive the forgiveness that is ours,

May we become God's love in response to this amazing grace

+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 READING

Philippians 2: 1-10

CHORAL ANTHEM

"God Has Work For Us To Do"

Carl Daw/Mark A. Miller

'Til all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled; 'til no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled:

God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done and all things are made new, God has work for us to do!

'Til age and race and gender no longer separate; 'til pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate:

God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done and all things are made new, God has work for us to do!

In tenement and mansion, in factory, farm, and mill, in board room and in billiard hall, in wards where time stands still.

In classroom, church, and office, in shops, or on the street, in every place where people thrive, or stave, or hide, or meet.

God has work for us to do.

By sitting at a bedside to hold pale, trembling hands, by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands.

By praying through our doing, and singing though we fear, by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near:

God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done and all things are made new, God has work for us to do!

REFLECTION

"Compassion"

REMEMBERING OUR COVENANT

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and Will of God. It is our purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of this church to be witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

+HYMN

"When We Are Living"

#341

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER

"Open The Eyes Of My Heart"

#151 first half twice

SILENCE

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Sweeter as the years go by, Sweeter as the years go by,

Richer, fuller, deeper, Jesus' love is sweeter, Sweeter as the years go by.

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

Gracious God, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts, knowing that all gifts flow from your generosity and love. We pray that you will use them for your holy purposes in the world. Inspire us to imagine the world as a community of hope, mercy, and love. May these gifts strengthen our common purpose to make that world real. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

+HYMN

"Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands"

#157

+BENEDICTION

+SUNG BENEDICTION

"Be Thou My Vision"

#353

"Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light."

POSTLUDE