

First Congregational Church of Pelham
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church

"Sharing What God's Love Looks Like"

January 26, 2025

DO UNTO OTHERS

Humility

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: Cheryl Andrews, Margaret Oxner & Dan Murphy

~ We Gather in God's Presence ~

+Please rise in body or spirit.

CENTERING MUSIC

WELCOME

THRESHOLD

"Love Has Broken Down The Wall"

Mark A. Miller

"Love has broken down the wall. Let us join our hearts as one.

We will tear down the walls. We will tear down every wall.

God has called us, one and all. Christ has broken down the wall."

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator God, we ask you to come close and remind us of our belovedness as your children, for there are times we feel distant. Open our eyes to the beauty and pain we all contain, and invite us to "do unto others" in ways that build up your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen.

*HYMN

"Called As Partners in Christ's Service"

#443

A PEACE PRACTICE

We are on opposite sides, it seems. **It is hard to even talk about it.**
What if we don't see eye to eye? **What if you never see things as I do?**

I cannot imagine what will happen to all of us.

I'm not sure I can handle this tension, this pain.

Wait. **Breathe.** [take a breath]

Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment. **Breathe again.** [take a breath]

We are not alone. **Christ is with us.** [take a breath]

Let us take a deep breath together [take a breath]...

The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same.

Our desire for life and love is the same.

Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same.

Let this moment permeate our souls.

A WORD FOR ALL

SINGING PRAISE 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***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:1-6

CHORAL ANTHEM

"From A Distance" Julie Gold/arr Teena Chinn

"From a distance, the world looks blue and green and the snow-capped mountains white. The ocean meets the stream, and the eagle takes to flight. There is harmony, and it echoes through the land. It's the voice of hope, it's the voice of peace, it's the voice of everyone. From a distance, we all have enough, and no one is in need. There are no guns, no bombs, no disease, no hungry mouths to feed. We are instruments marching in a common band, playing songs of hope, peace, and everyone. God is watching us from a distance. From a distance you look like my friend even though we are at war. I just cannot comprehend what all this fighting is for. It's the hope of hopes, it's the love of loves, it's the heart of everyone."

SERMON

"Humility"

Rev. Carlos

*HYMN

"Lord, You Teach Us To Be Humble"

insert

~ We Respond to God with our Prayers and Offerings ~

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER

"God Of All Love"

#492 vs 2

SILENCE

SHARING OUR PRAYER REQUESTS
 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for a sense of connection, **for ourselves and others.**
 We pray for a setting aside of ego, **for ourselves and others.**
 We pray for the spiritual capacity for humility, **for ourselves and others.**
 We pray for the relief from fear, **for ourselves and others.**
 Holy, Loving, God...

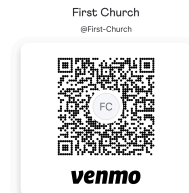
THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

#412

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
 INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
 OFFERTORY

*SUNG RESPONSE

Tune: *OLD 100th*



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit, comforter; One God triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

God in Community, Holy in One, equip us for the work of ministry, as we pray together. We come from different backgrounds and traditions, yet share one faith; we are, each of us, unique and precious to you, and are members of one Body; we have different dreams and doubts, yet our hearts beat with one hope; we are graced with different gifts, so we may offer them in service to you. Bless the offerings we bring today and the offering of our lives. Amen

+HYMN

"Christ's Body All Are We"

#493

*BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION "Blest Be The Tie That Binds"

#497

"The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

WEEKLY

Sunday Worship 10am

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

Bell Choir Rehearsal - Monday 6:30 pm

Knitters - Tuesday 1pm

Coffeebreak - Wednesday 1pm

Choir Rehearsal - Wednesday 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 26	Humility Church School – Jesus Blesses Children
Monday, January 27	Book Group 7pm
Tuesday January 28	Church Council 7pm ZOOM
Sunday, February 2	Respect Annual Meeting 11:30am Faith Formation - Evening 5-6:30pm - Church School & Youth Group Tivvi Pare - Director of Outdoor Ministries will be our special guest

Lord, You Teach Us To Be Humble

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

Lord, you teach us to be humble in the things we do and say
So that others will not stumble or—discouraged — turn away.
For a faith that's lived for glory — full of bragging, full of show —
Cannot tell the gospel story that your people long to know.

How do other people greet us as we journey through our days?
Do we hope that they will meet us with a word of thanks or praise?
Do we seek congratulations for the kind of life we lead?
Do we want their admiration for the things that we believe?

May we never burden others with a faith that's hard to bear.
Make us kind to one another; make us humble in our prayer.
As we give up seats of honor, may we give you glory, too.
Lord, you teach us to be humble; may we humbly follow you.

Tune: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

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