First Congregational Church of Pelham

United Church of Christ

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

November 1, 2026 - All Saints Sunday

The steadfast love of God never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.
Lamentations 3:22-23

+Please rise in body or spirit.

TOLLING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT "I Was Glad" Lloyd Larson

"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord."

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come let us walk in the light of God's steadfast love
That leads us like light in the morning and holds us like darkness at night.
Sometimes our paths are easy, sometimes steep, **And sometimes we break new trails.**
So set down your heavy pack on this rock, **And travel light in good company.**
For even when storms blow through, **God's mercies are new each morning.**
Together let us hope in the love of God, **For Love is our portion and our way.**
Let us worship God together!

+HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #47

INVOCATION

Holy and Merciful God, we gather in gratitude for the steadfast love that has carried your people across generations. We give thanks for 275 years of covenant, courage, worship, service, struggle, renewal, and grace in the life of this congregation. Meet us now in this moment, not only as inheritors of a sacred story, but as participants in your unfolding work of love. Where we carry weariness, breathe renewal. Where we carry grief, offer mercy. Where we carry uncertainty, kindle hope. Open our hearts to your presence, our minds to your wisdom, and our lives to the new mercies you are offering this day. Shape our worship and our common life, so that all we do may bear witness to the way of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Beloved in Christ, as we gather around this sacred table, we remember that the steadfast love of God never ceases, and that God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning.

For 275 years generations have gathered seeking to follow the way of Jesus. Our presence has extended into prisons and hospitals, Steepletop and new ministries

We have known seasons of faithfulness and seasons of fear, seasons of courage and seasons of weariness, seasons of clarity and seasons when the way ahead was hard to see.

And still, morning by morning, God has met us with mercy.

This is not our table. It is Christ's table. And because it is Christ's table, it is wide enough for all who come hungry for grace, thirsty for hope, longing for healing, and seeking strength for the journey.

Come, you who arrive with joy, and you who carry sorrow. Come, you who are full of faith, and you who can barely hold on. Come, you who have labored long in the vineyard, and you who are newly finding your place in the story. Come, you who remember what has been, and you who dream of what may yet be.

Here, Christ meets us. Here, mercy is renewed. Here, the love of God sustains us for the work of love, justice, peace, and reconciliation.

With grateful hearts, we come to the table.

The Holy Living God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy and Merciful God, it is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give you thanks and praise.

Before our beginnings, you were. Before our church was formed, before our covenant was written, before our steeple rose against the New Hampshire sky, your love was already moving over creation.

You called light out of darkness. You breathed life into dust. You formed a people for yourself, not because they were perfect, but because you are faithful. Again and again, when your people wandered, you called them home. Again and again, when they forgot the way of mercy, you raised up prophets to speak truth, to defend the vulnerable, to turn hearts toward justice, and to remind the weary that your compassion does not fail.

We give you thanks for those who came before us in this congregation, for preachers and teachers, deacons and moderators, prophets, singers and servants, builders and dreamers, saints known to history and saints known only to you.

We lift the saints who helped shape who we are…

We remember especially today those who have died in this past year…

We give you thanks for all who kept faith through war and peace, grief and renewal, conflict and reconciliation, endings and beginnings.

We give you thanks for those, rooted in covenant, guided by conscience, and accountable to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who dared to imagine how to be your faithful people.

We confess that our history has not always been easy, and it has not always been pure. We have sometimes mistaken comfort for faithfulness. We have sometimes been slow to hear the cries of the wounded. We have sometimes clung to what was familiar when your Spirit was calling us toward what was faithful.

And still, your steadfast love has not ceased.

Your mercy has met us in every generation. Your grace has called us to repentance, renewal, courage, and hope. Your Spirit has continued to stir among us, inviting us to become more fully the church you call us to be.

In Jesus Christ, your mercy took flesh and lived among us. He welcomed the outcast, touched the untouchable, fed the hungry, challenged the powerful, blessed the poor, and proclaimed good news to all who had been pushed to the margins.

He showed us that your love is not fragile. It does not run out. It does not withdraw when the road grows hard. It rises again, morning by morning, even from the shadow of the cross.

On the night before he gave himself in love, Jesus gathered with his friends at table. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

“Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup. And when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying:

“Drink from this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering Christ’s life of love, his death at the hands of empire, and his rising in the power of God’s mercy, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make them for us a sharing in the body and life of Christ, that we may become one body, renewed by your mercy and sent in your love.

As we receive this bread, strengthen us for the work before us. As we share this cup, deepen our covenant with you and with one another. As we remember 275 years of your faithfulness, free us from nostalgia and fear, and awaken us to the new mercies you are offering now.

Where there is lament, make us tender. Where there is division, make us courageous in love. Where there is exhaustion, renew our strength. Where there is injustice, make us faithful witnesses. Where there is uncertainty, teach us to trust the morning mercy that has carried your people from age to age.

Gather us with all your saints, those who planted and tended, those who marched and prayed, those who preached and sang, those who loved your church enough to change it, and those whose quiet faithfulness made the way possible for us.

Make us, in this generation, bearers of your steadfast love. Make our churches houses of mercy, courage, welcome, and hope. Make this Conference not merely an institution with a long history, but a living covenant, renewed each morning by your grace and sent each day in the way of Jesus.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Holy and Merciful God, now and forever. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTHEM “In Remembrance” Buryl Red

“In remembrance of me eat this bread. In remembrance of me drink this wine. In remembrance of me pray for the time when God's own will is done. In remembrance of me heal the sick. In remembrance of me feed the poor. In remembrance of me open the door and let your brother in. Take, eat, and be comforted. Drink and remember too that this is My body and precious blood shed for you. In remembrance of me search for truth. In remembrance of me always love. In remembrance of me don't look above but in your heart for God."

SHARE THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for this table, for the bread broken and the cup shared, and for the grace that gathers us as one.

For 275 years, generations of faithful who have gathered around this table, seeking to follow Jesus and to embody your love in the world. We give thanks for those who came before us, for the witness they entrusted to us, and for the faith we now carry forward.

Nourished by this meal, make us builders of beloved community, seekers of justice, bearers of hope, and faithful companions to all who are hurting or alone.

And may those who come after us find that we, too, were faithful in our time.

With grateful hearts, we give you thanks. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 1:11-23 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

ANTHEM "O Sing Unto The Lord" Henry Purcell

"O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord a new song! Hallelujah. Sing unto the Lord. All the whole earth sing unto the Lord. Hallelujah."

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" #228 vs 4

SILENCE

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.

venmo

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we bring our gifts today with hearts full of gratitude for 275 years of your unchanging faithfulness. Bless these offerings to honor our rich legacy, support our ministry today, and seed hope for the future. As we give these resources, we rededicate ourselves to carrying the light of your love forward for generations to come. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

+HYMN "I Sing A Song Of The Saints Of God" #506

+BENEDICTION

+SUNG BENEDICTION "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #47

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

NOVEMBER MISSION - Nashua Children's Home
We will be collecting until Sunday November 22nd We are asking the congregation to donate:
to make green bean casserole: cans of green beans, Cream of mushroom soup, crispy fried onions; stove top stuffing and jellied cranberry sauce (no whole cranberries please)..

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

Pastors: Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight &n Rev. G. David Wilkerson
Director of Music: Tom Seniow
Bell Choir Director: Sharon Hone
Deacons: Joe Calabro & Dan Murphy
Seminarian: Diana Sweeney
Accompanist: Carolyn (Sue) Howard
Administrator: Stephanie Noel
Sexton: Lupe Nava

WEEKLY	
Morning Prayer - Monday and Wednesday 7:30 am Zoom ID: contact church office Bell Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 pm Knitters - Tuesday 1pm Lazarus House Food Pantry 8:30 am - 12 noon Coffeebreak - Wednesday 1pm Choir Rehearsal - Wednesday 7:30 pm	
Tuesday, November 3	Bible Study 10am Faith Formation Meeting 7pm
Thursday, November 5	Book Group 7pm
Sunday, November 8	Worship 10am Celebrating Our Community Partners
Monday, November 9	Grief Group 7pm
Tuesday, November 10	Diaconate 7pm
Thursday, November 12	Trustees 6pm
Saturday, November 14	Men's Breakfast 8:30am
Sunday, November 15	Worship 10am Celebrating the Church's Foundation Confirmation 11:15am
Monday, November 16	Pub Theology 6:30pm - Martha's Exchange
Tuesday, November 17	Church Council 7pm
Thursday, November 19	7:30am - Lazarus House Breakfast Mission Ministry 7pm
Sunday, November 22	Worship 10am - Special Bell and Choral Music Celebrating the Future & Baptism
Monday, November 23	Women's Fellowship 7pm
Tuesday, November 24	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7pm