

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

"Sharing What God's Love Looks Like"

February 9, 2025

DO UNTO OTHERS

Love

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Pastor: Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight
(Sue) Howard
Stephanie Noel

Director of Music: Tom Seniow Organist: Carolyn
Bell Choir Director: Sharon Hone Administrator:
Sexton: Lupe Nova

Deacons: Harmony Campbell, Dave Hennessey, Dan Murphy

~ We Gather in God's Presence ~

+Please rise in body or spirit.

BELL PRELUDE

"My Song Is Love Unknown" J. Ireland/ arr. C. Moglebust
Gary Tepolt - flute

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

Loving and Hope-filled God, we ask you to stay close in our lives as we move into the future. Wrap us in your love, and invite us to go and do likewise—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

"Lord I Want To Be Christian"

#323

A PEACE PRACTICE

It has been an eye-opening experience to be here.

In the end I'm still not sure I'm capable of moving closer.

What if that never happens? **What if the chasm gets wider?**

But I have begun to imagine a way to live together.

I know we both are still afraid, but I wish you no harm.

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

Let us imagine this kind of outcome. **Breathe again.** [take a breath]

We are not alone. **Christ is with us.**

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 and let us pass the peace of Christ between us.

This peace is meant for all people.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

NEXT STOP ON OUR BUS RIDE

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

Matthew 22: 34-40

RESPONSE

A word of God for our times. **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Draw The Circle Wide" Gordon Light & Mark A. Miller

"Draw the circle, draw the circle wide, no one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song:

no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide."

SERMON

"What's Love Got to Do with It?"

Rev. Carlos

~ We Respond to God with our Prayers and Offerings ~

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SUNG CALL TO PRAYER

"God Of All Love"

#492 vs 4

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
 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for your guidance, **for ourselves and others.**
 We pray for the ability to hope against hopelessness, **for ourselves and others.**
 We pray for the spiritual capacity for love, **for ourselves and others.**
 We pray for mercy when we fail, **for ourselves and others.**
 Holy, Loving, God...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

#412

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
 INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
 BELL OFFERTORY "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



*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

written by Rev. Kaji R. Spellman

**With what you see before us, God, we demonstrate our deepest love.
 Receive our gifts – our very best – as sweet offerings before you.
 May they be the blessing to others that they have been for us. Amen.**

+HYMN

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"
 Bells and Congregation

insert

*BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

#495

"Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."

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, February 9	Worship Malice Toward None - Love Church School
Monday, February 10	Holy Habits Meeting 7pm
Tuesday, February 11	Diaconate Ministry Meeting 7pm
Thursday, February 13	Trustee Ministry Meeting 7pm Women's Fellowship 7pm
Friday, February, 14	Community Dinner 5:30pm
Saturday, February 15	Men's Breakfast 8:30am