

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
August 29, 2021

Those who are able may stand where marked (*).

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering #138 “Holy Ground”

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Mary Menzies*

Prelude

Responsive Reading *from Psalm 139*

One: My God, you have seen me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise.

All: You know what I'm thinking before I speak.

Your hand hems me in before and behind.

Your limits protect me and comfort me.

One: Where shall I run from your presence, O God?

And where shall I fly from your Spirit?

All: If I climb up to heaven or go down to the dead,

if I take wings and fly to the ends of the earth,

wherever I go, your hand shows me the way

and welcomes me when I arrive.

One: It was you, God, who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

All: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

One: Wonderful are all your works, O God;

this I know very well.

All: Search me then, God, and know my heart;

test me and know my most intimate thoughts.

See if there is any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

*Hymn #23

“The God of Abraham Praise”

vs. 1-3

Confession: **Creator, you made us to enjoy our lives with you, and we hid from you because we were afraid. Jesus, you lit up our world with your love and we crawled into the dark to hide our sin. Spirit, you bring us the fire of holy passion and we shake our heads because we assume the joy is for somebody else. And as we have turned away from your gifts, dear God, we have added to the pain in the world, our own and everyone else's. Forgive us our fear, Creator, Jesus, Spirit, and give us another chance to love. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon with Gloria Patri #813

Statement of Faith: *(from the United Church of Canada)*

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,

crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Moments of Concern and Celebration

Pastoral Prayer and Our Savior's Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology #815 and Offertory Prayer

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:7-14

Sermon “blessings”

*Hymn #291 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer: **You have given yourself to us, loving God, in the simple food and drink we have shared. Jesus has been here. Even now, his presence is strengthening us to be his Body. God, give us courage; make us whole and give us peace. Fill us with Holy Spirit and send us out to touch the world with your healing Presence; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen.**

Liturgy of Farewell

(insert)

Hymn #139 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

*Benediction

Response #426 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Postlude

*Readings for next week:
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125;
Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146;
James 2:1-10, 11-17; Mark 7:24-37.*

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*Thank you for joining us for worship today!  
It is our sincere hope that all who gather in  
this place will know and experience the love,  
forgiveness, hope, and new life available  
through Jesus Christ.*

*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Littleton, New Hampshire  
August 29, 2021*



Pastor:  
Rev. W. David Weddington  
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Music Director & Organist  
Dorothy Morton

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

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FCC Shining Lights Learning Center
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Our Mission Statement:

As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.

Online Giving <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR4H/home>