

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
September 4, 2022**

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

Gathering Music #704 “God Will Make a Way” *(twice through)*

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer

Prelude

*Hymn #300 “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Responsive Reading *Psalm 46: 1-11*

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

One: The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

All: Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

One: “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.”

All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

*Hymn #575 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

*Prayer of Confession *(all spoken together in unison)*

In scripture, God, we see ourselves for who we are and who we are not. We complain about those who are not doing what we think they should be doing, and we ignore our own failings. We speak words which eat away at the life in our family and friends. We step over the poor on our way to get more and more, ignoring their needs. Forgive us, Lord. Sit us down at Jesus’ feet, so we may learn the balanced life you intend for us. Then, and only then, can we set aside our grudges, and offer our gifts to our neighbors. We can stop focusing on our own hurts and bring healing to others; we can reach out and welcome our sisters and brothers, even as we have been welcomed into your heart through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.
(Moment of silence and reflection)

*Assurance of Pardon with Gloria Patri #813

*Statement of Faith (United Church of Christ):

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Moments of Concern and Celebration
Pastoral Prayer and Our Savior's Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music "The Spinning Song"

Worship of God with our Tithes and Offerings
*Doxology (#815)
Offertory prayer

Scripture John 6: 24-35

Sermon: "Help" Emily LaFlam

*Hymn #462 "Come, Share the Lord"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sharing the Communion elements

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.**

*Hymn #684 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

*Benediction

*Response: #597 "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"
Versus 1,5, and 6

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Littleton, New Hampshire
September 4, 2022*



Welcome:

Mary Menzies
Emily LaFlam

Music Director & Organist
Dorothy Morton
Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

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Littleton, NH 03561

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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.