

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**The Installation of
The Reverend Walt Hampton, J.D., CFC**



September 8, 2024

CCLI #292978, and #20547245

CHURCH ORGANIZED ON AUGUST 18, 1778

Present building erected in North Conway Village 1884

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are
welcome here!"**

"There is no remedy for love but to love more." – Henry David Thoreau

***Please stand if you are able**

Prelude Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee arr. Charles Callahan
Be Now My Vision arr. Noel Rawsthorne
Variations on "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" Denis Bedard

Lighting the Community Candles
We invite you to use this time for silent prayer
and reflection as we prepare for worship.

***Hymn** NCH #73 Enter, Rejoice and Come In

Gathering

Call to Worship The Reverend Gordon M. Rankin

One: Come, let us gather in the presence of the One whose love never falters.

All: We come with open hearts, ready to receive the love that always finds us.

One: When we wander and feel lost, God's love seeks us out, bringing us home.

All: We gather as those who have been found, embraced by God's endless love.

One: In the midst of our struggles, God's love calls us back to life.

All: We come with hope, knowing that God's love can restore all that is broken.

One: Let us rejoice in the One who searches for us, even in the darkest places.

All: We worship with gratitude, knowing we are cherished and pursued by God.

One: Come, let us celebrate the love that never gives up on us.

All: We lift our voices in praise, thankful for the relentless love of God.

Unison Prayer

The Reverend Gordon M. Rankin

One: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, we come before You, grateful for the relentless love that seeks us out when we are lost and brings us back to the safety of Your embrace. We confess that we sometimes stray, caught up in our own worries and desires, forgetting the way of love that You have shown us. Yet, You never give up on us, pursuing us with a love that knows no bounds. Breathe new life into our weary spirits, restore our hope, and renew our commitment to follow You. May we be agents of Your relentless love in the world, reaching out to others with the same compassion and grace that You extend to us. In the name of Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Alleluia

Hand Bell Choir

Proclamation

Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lee Coffield

Psalm 34

Claire Smith

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Laurel Ekberg

Luke 15:3-7

Pastor Sue Davidson

Message

Pastor Sue Davidson

Word In Music Be Not Afraid

Soloist Richard P. Goss III

Installation

Presentation

Helen Goss

Exhortation

The Reverend Pamela Spain

Covenant

The Reverend Robert Spencer

Dear friends, First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ has declared that having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called The Reverend Walt Hampton to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now receives him as appointed by God for this ministry. The Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that he has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Pastor Walt, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the North Country Association?

Pastor Walt: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the order of the United Church of Christ.

Members of First Church, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your pastor and teacher?

Members of First Church: We, the members of First Church of Christ receive The Reverend Walt Hampton as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Members of the North Country Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

Association Members: We, the members of the North Country Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Prayers of Installation

The Reverend Robert Spencer

Declaration

The Reverend Robert Spencer

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the North Country Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as pastor and teacher of First Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Blessing By The Conference Minister The Reverend Gordon Rankin

Laying on of Hands

The Reverend Ann Cady & Dori Stern

Anthem

Rejoice

Chancel Choir

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Pastor Walt

Communion Prayer

One: The Holy Living God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord!

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

One: Now as our Savior Jesus taught us, we sing together:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing The Gifts

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

We invite you to come forward via the center aisle, as directed by the ushers, to receive communion. All are welcome at this table.

Communion Song

Thankful

Soloist Richard P. Goss III

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of this sacred meal, where we have encountered Your relentless love in the bread and the cup. As we have been nourished at Your table, may we be strengthened to go out into the world, carrying the light of Your love to all we meet. Empower us to be instruments of Your peace, agents of Your restoration, and bearers of Your unwavering love. Guide us in the days ahead, that we might walk faithfully in the footsteps of Christ, seeking out the lost, embracing the broken and sharing the hope that we have found in You. In the name of Jesus, our Shepherd and Savior, we pray. Amen.

Sending Out

Benediction

***Hymn** NCH #76 Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Postlude- Toccata (from Symphony #5) Charles Marie Widor

Gratitude and thanks for our wonderful guest organist, Ray Cornils.

Deep appreciation for our awesome Music Director, Anne Polak; for our extraordinarily talented musicians in the chancel and bell choirs; and for our amazing soloist, Richard P. Goss III.

The North Country Association of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, at the request of the local church, confirms and celebrates the covenant between the local church and a newly called pastor and teacher, and reaffirms the covenantal relationship of all churches in the association. We give thanks to The Reverend Pamela Spain and The Reverend Robert Spencer of the North Country Association for all they have done to make this day happen; and we extend deep thanks to The Reverend Gordon M. Rankin, Conference Minister of The New Hampshire Conference, for his presence here today.

To continue the important work of the church in the world, it is necessary to raise up and support new leaders. Please consider a free will offering to the NHCUCC North Country Association Committee on Ministry to support those in training to become pastors. You'll find an offering plate in the back of the church to make a donation before you leave.