

# First Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ

## Second Sunday of Lent



**March 16, 2025**

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!"**

*"The most radical thing we can do in the face of power is to love one another into wholeness."—Diana Butler Bass*

**\*Please stand if you are able**

## **Prelude**

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

## **Centering Song**

### **Gathering**

#### **Call to Worship**

One: Come, all who seek the way of Christ. Though the world resists the truth, God's love cannot be silenced.

**All: We gather to listen, to learn, and to walk in the way of justice and peace.**

One: Jesus stood firm in the face of corruption, speaking truth to power with unwavering love.

**All: May we have the courage to follow his path, resisting fear and choosing faithfulness.**

One: Christ wept for Jerusalem, longing to gather the people in the shelter of divine love.

**All: God still longs to gather us—will we open our hearts and be drawn into grace?**

One: The world calls us to self-preservation, but Christ calls us to radical love and fearless compassion.

**All: We choose the way of Christ, the way of the cross, the way of self-giving love.**

One: The prophets have always been rejected, but God's truth endures from generation to generation.

**All: May we have the faith to speak boldly and the love to embrace even those who resist.**

One: The Spirit moves among us now, stirring us to action, urging us to embrace the urgency of the Gospel.

**All: Let us worship the living God, who gathers, strengthens, and sends us into the world with love.**

### **Unison Prayer**

One: Let us pray.

**All: God of prophetic love and unwavering truth, you call us to faithfulness in the face of resistance, to courage in the presence of fear, and to love even when the world turns away. We hear the cries of a broken world, the voices of the silenced, the pain of the oppressed, and we confess that too often we retreat into comfort and safety. Gather us under your wings, O Christ, that we may find strength in your presence and boldness in your call to justice. Open our hearts to lament, not as despair, but as the first step toward healing. Make us steadfast in love, undaunted by power, and urgent in the work of your Gospel. Lead us, O God, so that we may follow in the way of Christ, walking toward Jerusalem not in fear, but in the full assurance of your unending grace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn RED #37**    O For A Thousand Tongues

### **Sharing The Peace of Christ**

## **Proclamation**

**Scripture**                      Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 (Hebrew Bible p. 12)  
  Philippians 3:17—4:1 (NT p. 198)  
  Luke 13:31-35

*At the end of the readings, the reader will say, "The word of God for the people of God." We invite your response to be "Thanks be to God."*

**Children's Message**

Safe

Pastor Walt

**Word In Music**

**We Are Called**

**Richard Goss III**

**Message**

**The Courage To Love**

**Pastor Walt**

## **Response**

**Prayers with Joys and Concerns**

**Morning Prayer**

**Offertory**

**Doxology** NCH #780

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**Prayer of Dedication**

## **Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Communion Prayer** (*The St. Francis Eucharistic 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.**

**Eucharist Prayer**

## **The Lord's Prayer** (From the Aramaic by Dr. Jana Rentzel)

One: Now as our Savior Jesus taught us, let us pray together:

**All: Our ever-present Divine Light and Creator, who lives deep within and among our hearts, let Your holy Light and Love radiate through us into our lives. Help us realize who we truly are, in and with You. May our actions reflect Your will for us, as we live in peace and harmony with all. Grant what we need today in nourishment and insight. Release us from our mistakes that bind us, as we release our judgments and resentments against others. Help us avoid the things of this world that eclipse our spiritual focus, and free us from our worldly mistakes. For Yours is the glorious Heart of the universe that abundantly sustains us forever and ever. May You be the ground from which all our actions grow. Sealed in trust and faith and truth. 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.*

*When you receive, we will say: "The Bread of Life;" and then "The Cup of Salvation." We invite you to respond: "Amen."*

## **Communion Meditation**

Chris DeVries

## **Prayer After Communion**

One: Let us pray.

**All: Steadfast and ever-gathering God, we give thanks for this holy meal, where in the bread and the cup, we have been drawn once more into Your abiding love. As Jesus walked toward Jerusalem, sustained by Your presence, so too are we strengthened by this feast of grace. May this communion remind**

us that we are called—not to retreat in fear, but to stand firm in love; not to turn away from the world’s pain, but to walk boldly in the way of Christ. Send us forth from this table with renewed courage, open hearts, and hands ready to serve. Let this meal be our strength as we bear witness to Your justice, Your mercy, and the love that never turns away. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

## Sending Out

**\*Hymn - NCH #388** Help Us Accept Each Other

## Benediction

### Closing Song

Go Now In Peace

Besig/Price

Go now in peace, never be afraid  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,  
God will go with you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others, so all the world can see  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

## Postlude

*(Stay and enjoy OR head right on over for coffee and treats!)*

The altar flowers are given Helen Goss in celebration of my niece's birthday this past week. It was a beautiful blessed day Elizabeth was born! All to the glory of God.

**Greeter:** Patsy Perry

**Ushers:** Mike James and Jay Donabedian

**Liturgist:** Linda Hyde

*Welcome to First Church of Christ! If you are visiting with us today, please note that there are two fire exits at the rear of the sanctuary and one at the back of the church through the kitchen. Additionally, there*

*are two unisex bathrooms; one downstairs off the front entrance and one off the kitchen at the rear of the building.*

*Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and conversation!*

### **Mission Corner:**

- **The Noisy Offering for March/April will go to Mission's Scholarship Fund** to benefit our local students going into the trades.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter **Mission collection is for the End 68 Hours of Hunger Program.** This program confronts the approximately 68 hours of hunger that some school children experience between the free lunch they receive at school on Friday afternoon and the free breakfast they receive at school on Monday morning.
- **The Food Pantry welcomes non-perishable food and monetary gifts are most appreciated as they can be stretched further.** The pantry hours are shown in our *Week of Activities*. Checks can be made payable to: *Vaughan Community Service, Inc.* and placed in the collection plate.

***Evelyn Porter*** is designated as The Coordinator of the Diaconates' Ministry of Greeting. If you would like her to send a card from the church to someone who is ill, grieving, celebrating or who just needs a "pick-me-up" note. Please call her at (603) 356-2881 or send her an email at [hambru35@yahoo.com](mailto:hambru35@yahoo.com).

### **Week of Activities:**

**Today:** Revolving Closet-Teens 2-5pm

**Monday:** **April Congregate Tidings Articles Due;**

AA Noon-1pm;

Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 6:30-8:00pm

**Tuesday:** **Faith Fellowship 9:30am-10:30am;**

Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45pm;

**Trustees meeting 4pm**

**Thursday:** Food Pantry Open 12:30-2:45pm;

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;

Bell Choir Rehearsal 4-5pm

**Friday:** AA Noon-1pm

**Sunday:** **Communion Worship Service 10am;**

**Our **March** Newsletter is chock full of good stuff and important dates! You'll definitely want to check it out. You'll find it in your mail and by going online to our website at:**

**<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/March2025.pdf>**

### ***Church Address and Information***

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC  
2521 White Mountain Highway  
PO Box 401  
North Conway, NH 03860

Pastor: Reverend Walt Hampton, J.D., CFC

Pianist/Organist: Patrick Speckamp

Associate Organist: Muriel Magg

Chancel Choir/Handbell Director: Anne Polak

Church Administrator/Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Vaughan Administrator: Jennifer Perkins

Vaughan Learning Center Director: Heather Ouellette

Vaughan Bookkeeper: Denise Leighton

Church Sexton: Mark Schiller

Pastor Walt's Phone: 603-356-2324 (Press 2)

Church Phone: 603-356-2324

Church Fax number: 603-356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213

Pastor Walt's Email: [pastor@firstchurchnc.com](mailto:pastor@firstchurchnc.com)

Church Office Email: [churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com](mailto:churchoffice@firstchurchnc.com)

Church Website: [www.firstchurchnc.com](http://www.firstchurchnc.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh)

**Thank you for worshipping with us today!**



**To make giving even easier for those who don't carry cash or use checks, we've started using QR Code, in the bulletin. Just scan the code with your phone like you would in a restaurant!**