

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

**Holy Vessels**

**Easter Sunday**



**April 5, 2026**

CCLI #292978, and #20547245

CHURCH ORGANIZED ON AUGUST 18, 1778

Present building erected in North Conway Village 1884

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

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

# WE GATHER

## Prelude

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

## Welcome and Announcements

## Threshold to Worship

*Leader:* When death seems to have had the last word and rising up feels locked down, we call on the power of love and life. We take up Jesus' cup of freedom, we call on the name of the One Who Is Truly Sovereign, and we claim the freedom to move forward, to sing, to follow, to rise again, to love, heal, and be opened. In the end, we are filled with the freedom of the Spirit of God.

Leader: Don't weep! Don't mourn! There is great Good News!

**All: Christ the Lord is risen today!**

Leader: Put away your garments of mourning; let the light of God's love flood into your lives.

**All: Christ the Lord is risen today!**

Leader: No more do we have to fear the darkness; it has been overcome by God's light

**All: Christ the Lord is risen today.**

**ALLELUIA!!**

*(To be sung by all)*

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Leader: Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen, indeed!**

Leader: Let all the earth proclaim the joy!

**All: Let all heaven show forth in praise.**

Leader: Alleluia!

**All: Alleluia!**

*(To be sung by all)*

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

## **Opening Prayer**

\*Hymn NCH #233

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

## **\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: The peace of Christ is with you.

**All: And also with you!**

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**The Ancient Word**

Acts 10: 34-43

**The Psalmist's Prayer**

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.  
The Lord is my strength and my power: the Lord has become my salvation.

**All: There are joyous songs of victory in the tents of the righteous;**

Leader: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly, the right hand of the Lord is exalted, the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!"

**All: I didn't die, I lived!**

**And now I'm telling the world what God has done.**

Leader: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

**All: This is the gate of the Lord;  
The righteous shall enter through it.**

Leader: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**All: The stone which the builders rejected has become the  
cornerstone.**

Leader: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**All: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad  
in it.**

## **Gospel Reading**

John 20:11-18

## **Message for the Young at Heart**

### **The Word in Music**

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen

G. Young

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

(Repeat)

Jesus, our Lord, is risen today!

Jesus, our Lord, is risen today!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

(Repeat)

### **Message**

A New Start

Pastor Sue

### **\*Hymn NCH #417**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

## **WE RESPOND**

**Prayers of the People - Joys, Concerns**

**Song of Preparation**      Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole

*(To be sung by all)*

**In your love, make us whole.  
May we rest in your compassion.  
Calm the lost, weary soul  
in the warmth of your love.  
May your peace fill our hearts.  
May we know the love of Jesus.  
By your grace, you console.  
Make us holy, make us whole.**

**Pastoral Prayer**                      Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole

*(To be sung by all)*

**In your love, make us whole.  
May we rest in your compassion.  
Calm the lost, weary soul  
in the warmth of your love.  
May your peace fill our hearts.  
May we know the love of Jesus.  
By your grace, you console.  
Make us holy, make us whole.**

**Offering Invitation and Collection**

## Doxology

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God above ye Heavenly Host; Praise Father, Son, and  
Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Prayer of Dedication

## Communion Ritual

One: Our God is with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to our God.**

One: Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God

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

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, In the beginning you breathed life into raw materials, creating and animating containers of beauty and goodness. We, your Holy Vessels....  
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, Holy Vessel of Divine Presence on earth....And so, in remembrance of the healing, life-transforming acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice.....Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Healing God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer of Jesus – The Lord’s Prayer** (Sung)

One: Let us pray 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.**

**Distribution of the elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

## **WE GO FORTH**

**Ritual Action**

**\*Hymn** Red Hymnal #241

He Lives

**Blessing**

**Postlude**

Hallelujah Chorus

G. F. Händel

**Greeter:** Denise Leighton

**Liturgist:** Helen Goss

**Ushers:** Jim & Karen Umberger

**Pastor:** Sue Davidson

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

The doors to the church are locked at 10:10am on Sundays for everyone's safety. One of the doors in the back of the sanctuary is kept open for the Ushers to keep an eye out for any latecomers. Please knock on the glass if you need to get their attention.

*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 [hambro35@yahoo.com](mailto:hambro35@yahoo.com).

### **Mission Corner:**

- **The Noisy Offering for March/April** will go to the **Dog Park** being planned for North Conway.
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Mission Collection** is to support the **MWV Adult Day Center**.
- **The Food Pantry welcomes non-perishable food and monetary gifts are most appreciated as they can be stretched further.** 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.

## **Week of Activities:**

**Today:** **Easter Celebration - Communion Sunday**

**Monday** AA Noon-1pm;  
Scouts of America Troop 150 and Pack 150 6:30-8:00pm

**Tuesday:** Food Pantry 11:30am-1:45

**Wednesday:** Senior Non-Food Pantry 9-11am

**Thursday:** Food Pantry Open 12:00-2:15pm;  
Choir Rehearsal 3-4pm;  
Bell Choir 4-5pm

**Friday:** AA Noon-1pm

**Sunday:** **Second Sunday of Easter**

Faith Led – Helen Goss

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

**<https://firstchurchnc.com/Newsletters/April2026.pdf>**

## *Church Address and Information*

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

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

Church Phone: 603-356-2324

Church Fax number: 603-356-2106

Vaughan Food Pantry: 603-602-1801

Vaughan Learning Center: 603-356-5213

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

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstchurchncnh](http://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!**

## *Easter Flowers are given by...*



Easter Blessings

*In loving memory of Floyd & Sara Jane Corson from The Polak, Handpicker, and Edwards families.*

*Mary Ellen Shea in memory of loved ones.*

*Dan & Trina Jones in loving memory of theirs parents, Gurdon & Grace Jones, Buzz & Margaret Keene, and Dan's sister, Deborah Jones-Sullivan.*

*Gueneth Johnson in memory of loves ones.*

*Jodie Neal in memory of loved ones.*

*Glenna Tibbetts in memory of loved ones.*

*Barbara & David MacKinnon in honor of Stephen & Denise Woodcock.*

*Helen & Dick Goss in loving memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. Edmund M. Warren and Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Goss. Helen Goss and Lucy Howland in loving memory of their maternal grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur O. Lucy. Lucy & Elizabeth Howland and Helen Goss in loving memory of Marion (Gram) L. Warren.*

*Elizabeth George-Hussey, children and grandchildren in loving memory of Donald George.*

*Elizabeth George-Hussey and family in loving memory of Dr. Eugene Hussey.*

*Joe, Denise & Josh Leighton in loving memory of son and brother, Timothy B. Leighton.*

*In honor of M - X - Z.*

*Fred & Barbara Starkey in loving memory of their parents, George and Mable Starkey and Walter & Eugenia Gannon and Barbara's brother, Daniel Gannon.*