

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
of the United Church of Christ*



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

No matter their mental health challenges.

No matter their immigration status.

No matter their sexual orientation.

No matter their economic status.

No matter their gender identity.

No matter their disability.

No matter their religion.

No matter their race.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. NO EXCEPTIONS.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

1 John 4:11

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021, at 10:00 in the Morning

GATHERING TOGETHER Hosts: Linda Bastian & Chas Baker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Bucky Pelsue

PRELUDE

“Prelude in C Major”

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of God, who creates planets,

the name of Christ, born on planet Earth,

and the name of the Spirit, who envelopes our planet. Amen.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God’s presence.

Christ, we gather in your name to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**a planet filled with your presence, quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land,
pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this place and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with your presence.

HYMN # 39

“All You Works of God, Bless the Lord!”

All you works of God, bless the Lord! All you angels, now bless the Lord;
come you heavens and powers that be, praise the Lord and his majesty:

Refrain:

*Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
all you works of God, bless the Lord!*

Hills and mountains, now sing his worth, all you green things that grow on earth;
seas and rivers, you springs and wells, beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: *Refrain:*

Come humanity, sing along, sing, you people of God, as song;
priests and servants, your Lord now bless, join, you spirits and souls at rest. *Refrain:*

Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart; all you humble, his praises start;
God the Father and Son adore, bless the Spirit forevermore! *Refrain:*

INVITATION TO PRAYER

PRAYERS FOR THE JOURNEY OF HEALING

(Unison) Holy God, Creator of the world and all that is in it, holy Maker of starry dogwood and nesting geese, creator of mirth and mercy, we gather to be reminded that you are God of all, and that we are your people. Fill us with your Spirit as you filled those faithful sisters and brothers who have gone before us. Increase our mindfulness of you, O God. Help us to a greater common awareness of your deep mystery and infinite presence. Open our eyes from surface focus to depth perception.

Turn our heads from shallow concerns to eternal truths. Awaken us from faint-heartedness, and forgive us for our narrow and selfish ways. Forgive us and restore to us the joy of knowing you. May Christ be known among us in the breaking of bread.
(*A time for stillness in which we hold our hearts open to God.*)

THE PROMISE OF HEALING GRACE

THE PEACE (*You may exchange a sign of God's peace with each other.*)

The peace of God be with you. **And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 John 4:16-21 (NRSV)

Bucky Pelsue

God Is Love

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^[a] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,^[b] are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister^[c] whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters^[d] also.

Footnotes:

- a. [1 John 4:19](#) Other ancient authorities add *him*; others add *God*
- b. [1 John 4:20](#) Gk *brothers*
- c. [1 John 4:20](#) Gk *brother*
- d. [1 John 4:21](#) Gk *brothers*

John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

Jesus the True Vine

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples.

Footnotes:

- a. [John 15:2](#) The same Greek root refers to pruning and cleansing
- b. [John 15:3](#) The same Greek root refers to pruning and cleansing
- c. [John 15:8](#) Or *be*

MEDITATION

“Gardeners of Peace”

R. Hamm

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

OUR LORD’S PRAYER ~ *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.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN # 28 ***“For Beauty of Meadows”***

For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees, for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas, for all you created and gave us to share, we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

As stewards of beauty received at your hand, as creatures who hear your most urgent command, we turn from our wasteful destruction of life, confessing our failures, confessing our strife.

Teach us once again to be gardeners of peace; all nature around us is ours but on lease; your name we would hallow in all that we do, fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“I Will Rise”

Chris Tomlin

“Our Worship has ended -- Now our Service begins.”



Welcome!

We are glad to be in worship together. If you are a guest, new to this gathering, we hope you feel the welcome we want to extend and find the service meaningful.

Special thanks to our Zoom hosts, Linda Bastian and Chas Baker. Thanks to Lay Reader, Bucky Pelsue, and to all of those working together so that we could all see each other and worship together! Thanks to the Deacons and all who help to keep us connected.

Birthdays this week: May 6 - Apple Gifford

May Mission - Women's Freedom Center

The Women's Freedom Center is the local organization working to end domestic and sexual violence in Windham and Southern Windsor Counties. It is a feminist organization committed to offering support and advocacy to all survivors of violence, as well as prevention and educational activities to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated.

24 hour hotlines:

Windham: 802-254-6954

S. Windsor: 802-885-2050

The hotline is confidential and can be called 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You may also reach them toll-free at 1-800-773-0689.

Rev. Hamm's office is closed due to the pandemic.

If you would like to speak to Rob, please call him at home at 603-357-4822.

Church Phone: 802-365-4079

Office Hours: Mon: 8:30-3:30 Tues: 1-4

Weds: 8:30 – 3:00 Thurs: Noon -3:00 Closed Fridays

Rev. Robert Hamm ~ newfanepastor@gmail.com ~ 603-357-4822

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