



# **First Congregational Church** **Wilmot, New Hampshire**

**An Open & Affirming Racial Justice Congregation  
Of the United Church of Christ**

*Gathered in 1829*

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

***Worship Service***

***March 1, 2026***

Paul Fenton, Guest Preacher  
Elaine Cox, Guest Pianist

**MORNING WORSHIP March 1, 2026**  
A TIME OF GATHERING AND SHARING

Prelude

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Bringing of the Light of Christ

A Time of Silence to Center Ourselves

*Our worship service is taking place on N'dakinna, the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Penacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the people who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

I ask you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

**There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God who is above all and through all and in all.**

Each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

**Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head.**

Let us worship God!

**INVOCATION:**

Almighty God, we honor you as the one who called herdsmen to be patriarchs, as the God who called farmers to be prophets, as the God who called fishermen to be disciples, as the God who calls us--- whoever we are and whatever our livelihood---to honor you in all that we do. Speak to us today by your Word and Spirit, and equip us better to serve you and our world. Amen

**\*HYMN**

**"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

**Chalice #16**

**1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.**

**2 Here I raise to thee an altar;  
hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.**

**3 O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, how I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings                      John 3:1 – 21, Psalm 51:7 – 12

Reflection    “Trust”    Paul Fenton

**\*HYMN**    **“In the Garden”**    **Chalise #227**

**1 I come to the garden alone,  
while the dew is still on the roses;  
and the voice I hear falling on my ear,  
the Son of God discloses.**

### **Refrain:**

**And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
and he tells me I am his own,  
and the joy we share, as we tarry there,  
none other has ever known.**

**2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice,  
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
and the melody that he gave to me  
within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]**

**3 I'd stay in the garden with him  
though the night around me be falling,  
but he bids me go; through the voice of woe  
his voice to me is calling. [Refrain]**

## MORNING PRAYERS

### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer**

**Our \* .... 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

*\*We have come to know God by many different names and images. Please use the one which speaks from your heart today.(e.g. Father, Mother, Creator, God...)*

**Prayer Response**    **“Restless Weaver”**    Chalice #658, Verse 4

**Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life now and yet to be.  
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry.  
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love Guide all we do.  
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.**

## THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

**\*Doxology**    *(tune of “Old Hundredth”; Lenten Words)*

**The glory of these forty days,  
we celebrate with songs of praise,  
For Christ, by whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed. Amen**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

O Lord, we give these gifts, but we are not done with them. We follow them with our prayers, our concerns, our knowledge, and our personal involvement in sharing God's love. Amen

### \*HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

Chalice #543

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

[Refrain:]

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

### \*CLOSING CIRCLE AND COMMISSIONING ONE ANOTHER

Go into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### \*SUNG RESPONSE

“Spirit of the Living God”

Chalice #259

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Thursday, March 5

6:00 pm - AA's Beginner's Step Meeting

Thursday, March 5

7:00 PM – Book Study

Sunday, March 8

10:00 am – Church Worship with Communion

## First Congregational Church Staff and Officers

**Ministers:** Members and Friends  
of the Congregation

**Pastor:** Rev. Rachelle Eaton

**Music Director:** Donna Reade

**Moderator:** Bob Evans

**Clerk:** Open Position

**Religious Ed Director:** Nancy Allenby

**Secretary:** Mary Heath

**Deacon of the Month:** Lucy Mueller

## **Liturgical Attributions:**

Cover picture painted by Sue Finney

## **Music Attributions**

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