



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 15, 2026

Rev. Rachele Eaton, Minister

**MORNING WORSHIP March 15, 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

This is not the time for platitudes, for simple answers and tired clichés.

This is the time for broken hearts and weary spirits.

Let our worship be arms that can hold all that grieves us.

This is not the place for blame, for pointing fingers and second guessing.

This is the time for angry tears and aching wails.

Let our worship be a witness to journey alongside us as we break.

When we are standing at the edge of the tomb staring into the truth of the death-dealing forces of our world, when there is nothing left to do but to go and weep,

Let our worship be the song
calling us forth from the grave
to the community that can unbind us and set us free.

INVOCATION:

In this hour, as we look death in the face,
stay with us, Weeping Jesus, stay with us.
In this hour, as we try to hold on,
try to believe,
try to hope,
stay with us, Tender Love, stay with us.
In this hour, as we risk the vulnerability of love,
the possibility of joy,
the dream of freedom,
stay with us, Sweet Spirit, stay with us. Amen.

*HYMN

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Chalice #5

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

4. My loving Savior and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of thy name.

5 Glory to God and praise and love
be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Readings

John 11:1-44

Reflection

Rev. Rachele Eaton

*HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Chalice #585

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Litany of Comfort and Hope

Pastoral Prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer

Litany of Comfort and Hope

O Creator, Father of all mercy, Mother of all comfort, we come to you in our brokenness.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the ones we grieve and remember, who were overwhelmed by pain and lost their way in the darkness,

We trust them to your loving, merciful embrace.

For all who are plagued by guilt, shame, or questions of "why,"

Bring your healing, your peace, and your understanding, O Lord.

When we feel abandoned, angry, or confused by a sudden or complicated loss,

Calm our shaking hearts with your presence.

For those who feel stigma or judgment from others,

Surround them with unconditional love and compassion.

For the strength to face each new day,

Sustain us with the hope of the resurrection.

Where there is despair, bring hope; where there is emptiness, bring fulfillment.

Let your light shine in the darkness.

We entrust those we have lost to your gentle care, believing that nothing, not even death, can separate us from your love.

Give them eternal rest and peace. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 17	1:00 pm – Justice and Witness
Thursday, March 19	6:00 pm - AA's Beginner's Step Meeting
	7:00 pm – Lenten Book Study
Sunday, March 22	10:00 am – Church Worship

Clerk Needed

Many of you “answered the call” at the end of the church year in January and agreed to take on one of the jobs necessary to keep our church organization running smoothly, and your commitment is very much appreciated! Even so, we still have a need for someone to become our church’s Clerk. The Clerk is, along with the Moderator, one of our two officers, so an important position to fill.

We have a job description available for anyone interested in being Clerk to look at so you’ll know what the responsibilities are for that position. Contact Janet Howe for a copy of it. Any one of us noted below will be happy to meet with you to talk about it. Remember, being responsible for something doesn’t mean you can’t ask another church member to help you with some aspect of the position which you’re not comfortable doing. We’re good at sharing!!

Janet Howe
603-344-4559

Moderator Bob Evans
603-526-4405

Rev. Rachele Eaton
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First Congregational Church Staff and Officers

Ministers: Members and Friends
of the Congregation

Clerk: Open Position

Religious Ed Director: Nancy Allenby

Pastor: Rev. Rachele Eaton
Moderator: Bob Evans

Secretary: Mary Heath
Deacon of the Month: Lucy Mueller

Liturgical Attributions:

Call to Worship and Invocation from Unbind: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent, written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema who serves as a free-range facilitator, ritualist, activist, teacher, and writer whose work lives at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, disability, and embodied spiritual practices. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-5a-march-22/>

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