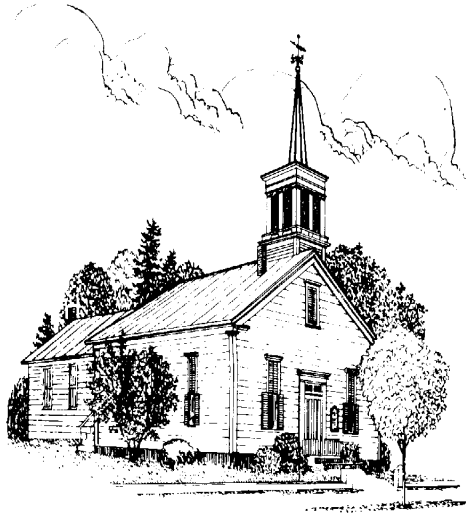


First Christian Church of Freedom
THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE ESTABLISHED IN 1858



***Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

Knute Ogren, Pastor

March 1, 2026

Prelude

Centering

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

— *Corrie ten Boom*

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
Lead Verse & Second Sunday

Insert

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God:

We journey with you and each other during this season of Lent. With each other, we use time and energy to extend hands and hearts. With you, we use time and energy to wonder about who we are in this broken world ... who we are as your creation ... who we are as people, called by you, to work for the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Let our journey take us to places of hope, on roads of safety, with hearts that are trusting. In a spirit of love, we pray. Amen.

Announcements

***Hymn:** Womb of Life, and Source of Being

#14

Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4

Read by Ed Barosky

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading: Romans 4: 1-5

Read by Jennifer Brown

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: God So Loved the World

by John Carter

Gospel:

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you[f] do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes

in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

***Hymn:** To God Be the Glory

#72

Prayers of the People

L: ...may the world be transformed and the kingdom of God be near.

Sung Response

Insert

Offering

***Doxology**

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

***Communion Liturgy**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O God. You created the heavens and the earth. You bring snow and rain to a thirsty world. You give sunlight and time to land so that your creation can eat. Harvests are plenty. Your people are fed. You nourish our bodies so that we can nourish the world with your mercy, justice, peace, and love. Your Spirit enters all spaces and places, equipping people with courage and strength. Your awesome power humbles the whole of creation, yet you meet us where we are with delicate tenderness. With all the saints who have come before, we praise you.

On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, broke it, gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In this meal, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

This is a holy feast for all people. If you wish to participate, you are invited! This is the Lord's table. All are welcome.

The congregation comes forward to receive the gifts.

At First Christian, we have bread and we have gluten free crackers. In the cups, we have grape juice.

For those not wishing to receive communion today, an invitation of a blessing is offered. To the pastor, say, "Blessing." Adults accompanying children forward can assist the pastor with direction so that all are included in the manner in which each one wishes.

Come forward using the main aisle. Receive the bread (or blessing) from the pastor and eat it. Continuing to the deacon, receive the grape juice and drink it. Return to your seat using the side aisle, placing your cup in the basket on the front pew.

Post-Communion Prayer

O God of Fullness: **We thank you for this morsel of hope, this nibble of justice, this taste of trust. Just like the mustard seed which begins so small but grows into fullness, let this simple meal do big things in us — and for us. Let us remember that we are forgiven, that we have value, and that your awesome love for us is unconditionally. May we always put our trust in you. Send us forth from this place with hands to serve and with hearts of love for our neighbor. Trusting you, we pray. Amen.**

Benediction

Traditional Irish

Blessing

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rains fall softly on your fields, and until we meet again,

May you keep safe in the gentle, loving arms of God.

Postlude

*Please stand, as you are able.

Visitors

We welcome your presence with us for worship this morning. Please sign the guestbook at the back of the church, and join us for coffee after the service in the Davidson Room.

Pastoral Visits

Should you want a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Knute or one of the deacons. Also, if you notice that someone hasn't been in church for several weeks, please mention it to a deacon or the Pastor.

Deacons

Ed Barosky, Judy Blake, Ellie Bossdorf, Carol McIntire, Jim Osborne, Dianne Park, Marty Perreault, David Wilcox, Libby Wilcox

Today in Church

Head Usher: Mark McKinley

Coffee Hour: Knute Ogren

The altar flowers are given by the Bingham-Maas Family, in honor of Norm's 60th Birthday.

This Week in Church

Tuesday	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Wednesday	Ladies Guild	8:30 AM – 1 PM
Thursday	Lenten Illuminations	1:30 – 2:30 PM
Saturday	Food Pantry	10 AM - Noon
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 AM
Sunday	Worship Service	10 AM

Prayer List

Kathy Avery	Matthew Meserve
Todd Baker	John Mocerì
Ellie Bossdorf	Gale Morris
Nancy Bossi	Kelley O'Connell
John Bourque	Barb, Rick & Ed Pelton
Sandy Boyle	Mark Perreault
Susan Brown	Bob Phinney
Family of Dorothy Brooks	Alan Scales
Isaac Buswell	Dan Spear
Family of Bill Elliott	Ellie Stokes
Anna Hlushuk	Jim Tracey
Pam Keith	Robin Tyner
Alex Klotz	Family of Kathryn Veglia
Grace Kull	Barbara Veglia
Jennifer Locker	Wheaton Family
Family of Dot Marshall	Grandville Wilkins
Bill McIntire	Marjorie Works

Our country's military personnel and their families, first responders and all those who serve the public good

To ensure your prayer request is added to the list, please write down the information and place it in the offering plate or on the administrative assistant's desk. Also, please let us know if you wish to have a name removed from the list.

LENTEN ILLUMINATIONS

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

“Understanding Concerns of ...”



Thursdays at 1:30 PM

MAR 5: Those working with Hungry.

Guest: Vicki McVitty

MAR 12: Those working with Homeless.

Guest: Dan Lavigne

MAR 19: A pastor thinking about ICE.

Guest: Pastor Nathan Hall

MAR 26: The Incarceration System.

Guest: Chaplain Suzy Kjellberg

APR 2: An option to “Die with Dignity.”

Guest: Rebecca Brown

For more information about church events, please visit
firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org/calendar

Food Pantry

Food Donation for February: *Anything!* The Food Pantry requests that donated food is not out of date and there are no open containers. There is always a need for clean plastic grocery bags and clean cardboard egg cartons.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF FREEDOM
INVITES YOU TO**

RALLY AT THE ALLEY

**SUNDAY, MAY 3 AT 1 PM
MONDAY, MAY 4 AT 11 AM**

**Way Station
Benefit**

**Form a
Team!**

WE'RE
GATHERING
FOR GOOD!

**SACO VALLEY
SPORTS CENTER
FRYEBURG, MAINE**

Learn more at firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org/rally



Church Contact Information

Knute Ogren, Pastor, 860-573-6783

knuteogren@roadrunner.com,

Carolyn Olzerowicz, Music Director, 603-569-5711,

colzerowicz@gmail.com

Evelyn Lamprey, Administrative Assistant,

603-539-6484, fccf1858@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wed 9 am –1 pm, Thu 9 am –1 pm

Office Number: 603-539-6484

Mailing Address: PO Box 502, 12 Elm Street, Freedom,
NH 03836-0502

Church email: fccf1858@gmail.com

Church website: firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org

Food Pantry

Vicki McVitty, Director, 603-539-2602

Doris Sirois, Co-Director, 603-539-1339

Dan Spear, Volunteer Coordinator, 603-539-1687

Read this Sunday's Bulletin online by scanning the QR
code below or by visiting
firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org.

