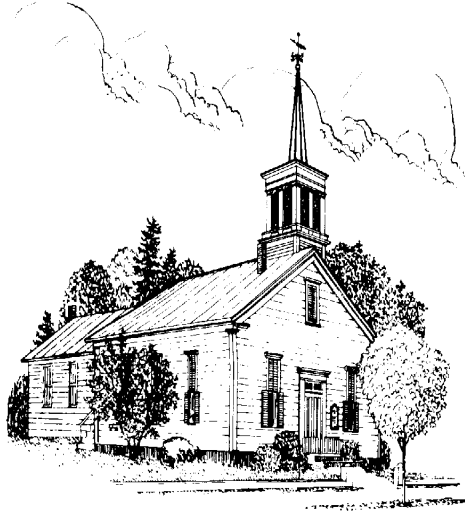


*First Christian Church of Freedom*  
THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE ESTABLISHED IN 1858



***Combining  
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

*Eryn Morency, Pastor  
April 19, 2026*

## Prelude

## Centering

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

— *Frederick Buechner*

Sometimes that calling begins quietly—  
with a stirring in the heart,  
a sense that something is being awakened within us.

And so we gather this morning,  
open to the possibility  
that God is already at work among us...  
drawing us, gently, toward love, toward connection,  
and toward the life we are called to share.

## Welcome to First Christian

### Call to Worship

Psalm 116: 1-4

I love the Lord because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

**Then I called on the name of the Lord,  
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**L: Let us pray. Almighty God:**

**C: You meet us on the road—**

**in our questions, our grief, and our searching.**

**You are present even when we do not recognize you,  
and you speak in ways that stir our hearts.**

**Open our eyes this day,  
that we may see you among us.**

**Open our hearts,  
that they may burn with your love.**

**And open our lives,  
that we may respond with compassion, courage,  
and a love that reaches beyond ourselves.**

**Be alive in us—  
in our words, in our actions, and in our hope for this  
world.**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## 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**

## Announcements

**\*Hymn:** Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! #222

**Reading:** Acts 2: 14, 36-41  
*Read by Ed Barosky*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the

heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

**Reading:**

1 Peter 1: 17-33

*Read by Marty Perreault*

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. Now that you have

purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

**Special Music:** The Emmaus Road \*\*

**Gospel:**

Luke 24: 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one

to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

## **Sermon**

**\*Hymn:** Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow                      Insert

## **Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in your mercy

**C: hear our prayer**

## **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.**

**\*Hymn:** Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

#233

## **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.

*Verses based on Ecclesiastes 3:2-8; adapted by Lori True, b 1961  
Tune; Lori True, b 1961. © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.*

## **Postlude**

\*Please stand, as you are able.

\*\* *Words by Joel Nagy music by Russell Nagy Copyright 2003  
Beckenhorst Press*

## 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 and Libby Wilcox

## Today in Church

**Head Usher:** Mark McKinley

**Coffee Hour:** Lucy Kendall, Eve Klotz

The altar flowers are given in thanks for all of God's Blessings

## This Week in Church

<b>Tuesday</b>	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ladies Guild	8:30 AM – 1 PM
<b>Saturday</b>	Food Pantry	10 AM - Noon
<b>Sunday</b>	Choir Rehearsal	9 AM
<b>Sunday</b>	Worship Service	10 AM

## Prayer List

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

## **Food Pantry**

Food Donations needed: *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.

## **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  
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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

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WE'RE GATHERING FOR GOOD!

SACO VALLEY  
SPORTS CENTER  
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Learn more at [firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org/rally](http://firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org/rally)




## EVENINGS ON ELM

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES



SAVE THE DATES:  
July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27