

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



***Combining  
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

*Knute Ogren, Pastor*

*May 17, 2026*

## Prelude

## Centering

“Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

## Welcome to First Christian

### Call to Worship

Psalm 66: 1-4

Let God rise up; let his enemies be scattered;  
**let those who hate him flee before him.**

As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
**as wax melts before the fire,  
let the wicked perish before God.**

But let the righteous be joyful;  
**let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy.**

Sing to God; sing praises to his name;

**lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—**

his name is the Lord—

**be exultant before him.**

## Confession

L: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that our humanity makes it so that we are quick to sin.**

**We are stuck — and we need you.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will**

**and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

L: God hears us when we come to God in humility and hope. In a spirit of forgiveness and newness, Jesus meets us where we are and frees us from shame and guilt. The Holy Spirit dwells in us and frees us to love and serve. We are forgiven. We are free.

**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray. Almighty God:

**C: We come to you, O God, and you hear us. We look all around and see your wonder. Your power humbles us. Your faithfulness gives us courage. Lead us on right paths with all of your creation so that we are one in spirit, one in hope, one in faith, one in you. We pray this in a spirit of love, the love of Jesus. 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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

**#517**

**Reading:**

Acts 1: 6-11

*Read by Marty Perreault*

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

**Reading:**

1 Peter 4: 12-14

*Read by David Avery*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name

of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

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

**Special Music:** May They Be One

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**Gospel:**

John 17: 1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their

behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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

## **Sermon**

**\*Hymn:** Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind #594

## **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:** They'll Know We Are Christians #494

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## **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.

## 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:** Knute Ogren

The altar flowers are given by Linda Habib, given in memory of Pat Habib.

## This Week in Church

<b>Tuesday</b>	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ladies Guild	8:30 AM – 1 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	High Tea at the Town Hall	4 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

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

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.



## Music – Art – Community

**Dwayne Haggins**

**July 9**

**White Mountain Ramblers**

**July 23**

**Ben Cosgrove**

**August 13**

**Darlin' Corey**

**August 27**

## Church Contact Information

**Knute Ogren**, Pastor, 860-573-6783

[pastorknute@freedomchurchnh.org](mailto:pastorknute@freedomchurchnh.org),

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

[colzerowicz@gmail.com](mailto:colzerowicz@gmail.com)

**Evelyn Lamprey**, Administrative Assistant,

603-539-6484, [fccf1858@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fccf1858@gmail.com)

**Church website:** [firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org](http://firstchristianchurchoffreedom.org)

### Food Pantry

**Vicki McVitty**, Director, 603-539-2602

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

**Dan Spear**, Volunteer Coordinator, 603-539-1687

*Scan the QR code to read the bulletin online*

