

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



***Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

Knute Ogren, Pastor

July 26, 2026

Prelude

Centering

“Take chances, make mistakes. That’s how you grow.
Pain nourishes your courage. You have to fail in order
to practice being brave.”

—Mary Tyler Moore

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship

Psalm 119: 129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

**The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your
name.**

Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

**Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

**Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.**

**My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Almighty God:

C: O God: In our pain and doubt, in our curiosity and deliberations, in our trials and errors — you are there. At each point when something ends or something fails, you step in to show a way of newness and of next steps. How blessed we are by your faithfulness. Help us be a living example of newness in a world looking for hope. We pray in a spirit of love. 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:** All Are Welcome¹

Insert

Reading:

1 Kings 3: 5-12

Read by David Avery

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked

this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

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

Reading:

Romans 8: 26-35; 37-39

Read by Mark McKinley

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any

charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Special Music: If God Is For Us²

Gospel Acclamation: God Welcomes All³

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

Gospel:

Matthew 13: 31-33; 44-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like

yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.” “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Sharing of the Love Feast

Sermon

***Hymn:** The Reign of God⁴

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: God Be With You Till We Meet Again #434

Benediction

Traditional Irish Blessing⁵

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

Judy Blake, Ellie Bossdorf, Carol McIntire, Jim Osborne, Dianne Park, Marty Perreault, David Wilcox and Libby Wilcox, Martha Blaser, Eve Klotz and Bev Perry

Today in Church

Head Usher: Mark McKinley

Coffee Hour: Bobbie McCracken

The altar flowers are given by Mark McKinley, given for the glory of God.

This Week in Church

Tuesday	Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Wednesday	Ladies Guild	8:30 AM – 1 PM
Wednesday	Songs of Peace & Justice	6:00 PM
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 AM
Sunday	Worship Service	10 AM

Prayer List

Family of Kathy Avery	Gale Morris
Family of Todd Baker	Chuck Morrison
Ellie Bossdorf	Kelley O'Connell
Nancy Bossi	Wendell Packard
John Bourque	Barb, Rick & Ed Pelton
Family of Sandy Boyle	Marc Perreault
Susan Brown	Bob Phinney
Family of Dorothy Brooks	Henry Rodriguez
Cecilia Costa	Nancy Sarden
Family of Bill Elliott	Alan Scales
Nancy Essex	Family of Bob Smart
Anna Hlushuk	Dan Spear
Susan Jancetic	Ellie Stokes
Alex Klotz	Jim Tracey
Grace Kull	Robin Tyner
Melissa Maas	Family of Caitlin Veglia
Family of Jean Marshall	Barbara Veglia
Matthew Meserve	Libby Wilcox
John Moceri	Family of Grandville Wilkins
Lee and Meg	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.

Church Contact Information

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Food Pantry

Vicki McVitty, Director, 603-539-2602

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read today's bulletin online.

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Coming Up at Evenings on Elm – August 13

5 PM Terri Brooks at Freedom Gallery

6:30 Ben Cosgrove

Concessions by Eaton Village Store

8 PM Refreshments and Meet and Greet at Freedom Village Store