

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



***Combining  
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

*Knute Ogren, Pastor*

*August 2, 2026*

## Prelude: Hymn Sing – People’s Choice

### Centering

“Music is the shorthand of emotion.”

—Leo Tolstoy

“Music can change the world because it can change people.”

— Bono

### Welcome to First Christian

#### Call to Worship

Psalm 150

Praise God in his holy house of worship,

**praise him under the open skies;**

Praise him for his acts of power,

**praise him for his magnificent greatness;**

Praise with a blast on the trumpet,

**praise by strumming soft strings;**

Praise him with castanets and dance,

**praise him with banjo and flute;**

Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum,

**praise him with fiddles and mandolin.**

Let every living, breathing creature praise God!

**Hallelujah!**

## Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Almighty God:

**C: With thankful hearts, we gather this morning to give you praise. With our voices, with sing with gladness. You bring sounds of hope using the gifts of your people. May we always let the songs of welcome, the songs of peace, the songs of inclusion, and the songs of your love take center stage in our lives — and in our life together as the Church. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.**

## Announcements

**\*Hymn:** When In Our Music God Is Glorified<sup>1</sup> #7  
*Barbara Hall-Siktberg on trumpet*

**Reading:** Isaiah 55: 1-5  
*Read by Jennifer Bingham-Maas*

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

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

**Reading:**

Romans 9: 1-5

*Read by Donna Tung*

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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

**Special Music:** Source of Music<sup>2</sup>

**Gospel Acclamation:** God Welcomes All<sup>3</sup>

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

## **Gospel:**

Matthew 14: 13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

## **Sermon**

## **\*Hymn: You Open Wide Your Hand<sup>4</sup>**

Psalm 145

### **Psalm 145 (Refrain 1)**

Mark Mummert



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## **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.**

## **Holy Communion** *(Please stand)*

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.*



## **Communion Music: What Feast of Love<sup>5</sup>**

*Sung by Steven Olzerowicz*

### **Post-Communion Prayer:**

Let us pray,

**You fill us with gifts of love. You offer forgiveness. You give grace and goodness. You grant your mercy and compassion. Send us forth from this place with hearts for service and care. May people in this community be shaped by our desire to love and to serve. We pray in a spirit of love. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

**#2**

*Barbara Hall-Siktberg on trumpet*

### **Benediction**

*Traditional Irish Blessing<sup>6</sup>*

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:** The Bingham-Maas Family

The altar flowers are given by Linda Habif, in honor of World War II Veterans.

## This Week in Church

|                  |                           |                |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Food Pantry 501c3 Meeting | 6:30 PM        |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Choir Rehearsal           | 7 PM           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Ladies Guild              | 8:30 AM – 1 PM |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Choir Rehearsal           | 9 AM           |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 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 Mocerì              | 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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**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

Visit [freedomchurch.org](http://freedomchurch.org) to read today's bulletin online.

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