

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



***Combining
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

Knute Ogren, Pastor

August 9, 2026

Prelude

Centering

“I can trust my friends. These people force me to examine myself, encourage me to grow.”

— Cher

Welcome to First Christian

Call to Worship

Psalm 85

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him
and will make a path for his steps.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Almighty God:

C: There are many spaces and places in the world where people cannot trust one another. There are times when we have been hurt due to someone who has fallen short. But you, O God, are faithful. You are worthy of our whole heart and all of our trust. Help us be faithful to you as you are faithful to us. In a spirit of love, we pray. 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:** Eternal Father, Strong to Save

#85

Reading:

1 Kings 19: 9-18

Read by Jim Osborne

At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out

and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

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

Reading: Romans 10: 11-17 (*Translation - The Message*)
Read by Eve Klotz

Scripture reassures us, “No one who trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it.” It’s exactly the same no matter what a person’s religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. “Everyone who calls, ‘Help, God!’ gets help.” But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That’s why Scripture exclaims, ‘A sight to take your breath away!

Grand processions of people telling all the good things of God!’ But not everybody is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: “Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?” The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ’s Word is preached, there’s nothing to listen to.

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

Special Music: Stand By Me¹

Sung by Ed Pimienta

Gospel Acclamation: God Welcomes All²

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

The Receiving of New Members

Gospel:

Matthew 14: 22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught

him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Sermon

***Hymn:** My Life Flows On

#619

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:** How Firm a Foundation

#618

Benediction

Traditional Irish

Blessing³

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: Jessie Robie and Dan Ryan

The altar flowers are given by John and Sylvia Manley, in memory of the Manley Family.

This Week in Church

Wednesday	Ladies Guild	9 AM to 2 PM
Thursday	Evenings on Elm: Ben Cosgrove	6:30 PM
Sunday	Choir Rehearsal	9 AM
Sunday	Worship Service	10 AM
Tuesday	Church Council Meeting	4 PM

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

My Grandchild

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

Knute Ogren, Pastor, 860-573-6783

pastorknute@freedomchurchnh.org,

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

Visit freedomchurch.org to read today's
bulletin online.

¹ Music - ©2022 Excelcia Music Publishing. Contributors: Charles Albert Tindley, Russell Robinson Used with permission Onelicense.net #720765

²Words and Music - ©2008 Iona Community / WGRG (North America).

Contributors: John Bell used by permission Onelicense.net #72076³Words and

³Music - ©2003 GIA Publications, Inc. Contributors: Lori True used by permission Onelicense.net 720765

Ben Cosgrove is a traveling composer-performer whose music explores themes of landscape, place, and environment. Described by the Boston Globe as “a sonic plein-air painter... [using] his piano as a paintbrush,” Ben has contributed music to several radio and film projects (including the recent Ken Burns documentary *The American Buffalo*), and held residencies and fellowships with institutions including NASA, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, Harvard University, Middlebury College, the New England National Scenic Trail, the Schmidt Ocean Institute, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Sitka Center for Art & Ecology.



Ben’s music has been called “beautiful and fascinating” (*The Maine Edge*), “deeply impressive” (*Independent Clauses*), and “immediately evocative and fully arresting... brim[ming] with technical mastery and emotional capital” (*Seven Days*). *Sound of Boston* has described him as “an expert at painting sonic portraits of curious, unexpected places.” His new album *Topograph*, a collection of sixteen new pieces inspired by land-shaping processes around the country, were released on January 30th, 2026.

Best Jazz Act, New England Music Awards, 2024