

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



***Combining  
Traditional & Contemporary Worship***

*Knute Ogren, Pastor*

*October 25, 2026*

## Prelude

## Centering

“You can be rich in spirit, kindness, love and all those things that you can’t put a dollar sign on.”

— Dolly Parton

## Welcome to First Christian

## Call to Worship

Psalm 1: 1-3

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,

**but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

**In all that they do, they prosper.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray: Gracious God,  
You are the God of all creation. We come together to give you thanks for blessings. You gifted Jesus to the world. His ministry turned the world upside down. He commands that we love God and each other. Help us to love, serve, and include so that your whole creation can prosper. 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**

**Reading:**

Leviticus 19: 1-2; 15-18

*Read by Nadine Chapman*

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. “You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the Lord. “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

**Reading:**

1 Thessalonians 2: 5-8

*Read by Jenny Brown*

As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were

gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

**Special Music:** God Is Our Refuge<sup>2</sup>

**Gospel:**

Matthew 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

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

**Wondering**

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn: O God, We Read the Holy Law<sup>3</sup>**

O God, we read the holy law  
to shape our ways of living  
like those who first in fear and awe  
received it with thanksgiving.  
These laws that Jesus knew  
he summarized with two  
that capture best the whole:  
“With heart, mind, strength, and soul,  
love God, and love your neighbor.”

All people born of God above  
will live as Jesus taught us:  
God’s chosen children practice love,  
for God in love has sought us.  
We know love never fails;  
and through love, good prevails.  
When all else turns to dust,  
in this we place our trust:  
God’s love endures forever.

So let our love for God be known  
in how we treat creation—  
true love in word and action shown  
to ev’ry tongue and nation.  
If we would heed this call  
and offer love to all,  
then we must surely praise  
our source of love always:  
to God alone be glory!

## 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: Send Me Jesus<sup>4</sup>**

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## Benediction

*Traditional Irish Blessing<sup>4</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:** Dianne, Bonnie and Diane

The altar flowers are given by Lucy Kendall, in Memory of Marshall Kendall.

## This Week in Church

|                  |                          |                |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Choir Rehearsal          | 7 PM           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Ladies Guild             | 9 AM - 2 PM    |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Pumpkin Carving          | 10 AM – 3 PM   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Food Pantry              | 10 AM          |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Halloween in the Village | 4 PM to Set Up |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Worship Service          | 10 AM          |

## Coming Up

**OCT 30 — Pumpkin Carving at church from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm** (come for a shorter or longer period of time that works for your schedule). We'll have a morning snack and we'll have pizza to share at lunchtime. 🎃

**OCT 31 — Trick or Treating** 🎃 We'll be hosting some trick or treat stations on OCT 31. We can use your help as we show the greater Freedom community that we are an active and engaged church. Can you help with "Nickel in a Haystack" or "The Holy Bell Toll" or "Donut-on-a-String" or "Pin-the-Stem-on-the-Pumpkin?"

**All Saints Sunday — November 1,** we will have a time of remembering the saints who have gone on to be with God. Each one present will have the opportunity to process forward and light one candle in memory of one or many people they wish to remember on that day. Some will include a person who may have died a long time ago and some will include a person who died

recently. It's good to remember — and we'll be doing that remembering together.

**Freedom Turkey Trot — November 26, 5K Fun Run or Walk for the Food Pantry**

### **Weekly Email Newsletter**

If you are getting the E-News each Wednesday -- great!

Reading the E-News is essential for ensuring everyone is on the same page with all that is happening at First Christian. If you aren't yet receiving the weekly E-News, you can:



1. Scan this code with your smart phone and fill out the subscription form or:
2. Share your email with the church office using the visitor card in your (or neighboring) pew.

If you go with the second option -- please print carefully so that we get the email right. Thanks!"

## Prayer List

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Family of Kathy Avery    | Chuck Morrison           |
| Ellie Bossdorf           | Kelley O'Connell         |
| Nancy Bossi              | Wendell Packard          |
| John Bourque             | Marc Perreault           |
| Family of Sandy Boyle    | Bob Phinney              |
| Susan Brown              | Henry Rodriguez          |
| Family of Dorothy Brooks | Nancy Sarden             |
| Cecilia Costa            | Alan Scales              |
| Family of Bill Elliott   | Family of Bob Smart      |
| Nancy Essex              | Dan Spear                |
| Anna Hlushuk             | Ellie Stokes             |
| Susan Jancetic           | Meg Taylor               |
| Grace Kull               | Jim Tracey               |
| Family of Melissa Maas   | Robin Tyner              |
| Family of Jean Marshall  | Family of Caitlin Veglia |
| Bob McKenny              | Barbara Veglia           |
| David Meserve            | Renee Wheaton            |
| Matthew Meserve          | Libby Wilcox             |
| John Mocerì              | Marjorie Works           |
| Gale Morris              | <i>My Grandchild</i>     |

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

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

colzerowicz@gmail.com

**Evelyn Lamprey**, Administrative Director, 603-539-6484,

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**Office Hours:** 12 Elm St., Wed 9 am –1 pm, Thu 9 am –1 pm

**Office Number:** 603-539-6484

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 502, Freedom, NH 03836-0502

**Church Email:** fccf1858@gmail.com

**Church Website:** freedomchurchnh.org

**Food Pantry**

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

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

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<sup>4</sup>*Words and Music; First Line: Send me, Jesus, send me, Text:*

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