

“Every now and then a mind is opened and stretched by a new idea or sensation, and it never shrinks back to its former dimensions.” ~ *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

*\* Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

## LET US GATHER

**PRELUDE** *Amazing Grace* *B. Edstrom*  
**WELCOME to ALL!**

*No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey  
you are welcome here!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

**INTROIT** *Let Us Praise Your Name* Taizé

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(adapted from Psalm 99)*

**L:** God reigns over all the earth; let the peoples turn in awe and wonder and be open to all that the Lord may do!

**P:** **You, O Lord, are great among the nations; you are exalted over all the peoples. Let us praise your great and majestic name.**

**L:** Holy, holy, holy are you, God of justice and mercy, equity and peace. Moses and Miriam, Aaron and Samuel, all called upon your name – and you answered them!

**P:** **You are a God of forgiveness and healing. We come to you on this day, at the foot of your holy mountain, to offer our praise and thanksgiving. Let us worship our God.**

## LET US PREPARE

**\*HYMN** *God Loved The World* *B 208*

## CONFESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**L:** Let us examine our lives in the presence of God, humbly confessing our sins and opening our hearts.

**P:** **Gentle and holy God, we acknowledge to you, to one another, and to ourselves that we are not what you have called us to be.**

**We have stifled our gifts and wasted our time. We have avoided opportunities to offer kindness, and have been quick to take offense. We have pretended that we could make no contribution to peace and justice in the world and have excused ourselves for not risk-taking in our own community. Have mercy on us and forgive us and help us to live our lives differently. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray and say, Our Father, who art in heaven...(trespasses)...Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**L:** One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will always love you.

**P:** **This is our good news of grace that brings us life.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** *(Please see insert for music)* Taizé  
God is forgiveness, dare to forgive and God will be with you.  
God is forgiveness, love and do not fear.

## LET US LISTEN

**READING** John 9:1-41

**HYMN** *Amazing Grace* *B 547*

**REFLECTION** **“The Man Born Blind: Willing to Healing”**

**ANTHEM** *O Lux Beatissima* *H. Helvey*

*You are invited into a moment of silence for personal reflection.*

## LET US RESPOND

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *B 769*

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord.  
Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace.*

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS – ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**OFFERTORY** *The Blind Man Stood On The Road* *arr. H.T. Burleigh*

**\*DOXOLOGY** *B 780*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION**

## LET US GO FORTH

\*HYMN *Jesus, The Light of the World* B 160 vs. 2-4

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Praise The Lord* L. Smith

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**Ministers:** The People  
**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Miller  
**Minister of Music:** Gene Faxon  
**Worship Leader:** Marcia Breckenridge  
**Greeter:** Jill Tyler  
**Ushers:** Sam Greene and Annie Gordon  
**Setup:** Annie Gordon

*In lieu of flowers during Lent, we place sacred objects on the altar as a spiritual focus. Today we place an historic congregational ballot box as a reminder of the freedom and covenant that are a part of our congregational way.*

### **Church Calendar this week:**

Monday March 20, 6:30 pm – Scout Troop 33 B/G  
Wednesday March 22, 4:00 pm – Lenten Study Series: Character of Faith  
in the Parish House (regular gathering during Lent)  
Thursday March 23, 4:00 pm – Executive Circle  
Friday March 24, 12:00 noon – Lenten Prayer and Soup Lunch  
in the Parish House (regular gathering during Lent)

### **Dates to remember:**

Sunday March 26, 11:30 am – Quarterly Congregational meeting (PRC Report)  
Thursday, April 6, 5:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service at UCJ  
Sunday April 9, 6:00 am – Easter Sunrise at the Cathedral of the Pines  
**Please see insert for more announcements**

**Contact us! First Church in Jaffrey, PO Box 673, Jaffrey, NH 03452**  
**[www.firstchurchinjaffrey.org](http://www.firstchurchinjaffrey.org)**

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**March 19, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



**The First Church in Jaffrey**

*Gathered 1780*

A Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ  
On the Common – Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire

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you are welcome here.*