

“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.” ~ Socrates

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

## LET US GATHER

**PRELUDE** *The Spirit Rises* L. Smith

**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** *Bless The Lord* Taizé

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Adapted from Psalm 68)*

**L:** You who love God, rejoice! You who trust God, be glad in God's presence!  
Be filled with joy!

**P:** **Sing to the beloved, shout the holy name, offer your praises to  
the One who made heaven and earth. Welcome God's presence,  
here in our midst.**

**L:** This is our God, defender of the desolate. This is our God providing for the  
lost and the lonely, setting the prisoners free, bringing a vision of justice  
and mercy.

**P:** **Blessed be the Mighty One, who carries us each day. Blessed be  
our Creator who leads us into wholeness and new life.**

## LET US PREPARE

\***HYMN** *Hail The Day That Sees Christ Rise* B 260

**INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)**

## LET US LISTEN

**READING** Acts 1:6-14

**HYMN** *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* B 259

**REFLECTION** “Gate, Gate”  
Gate, gate, paragate, parasam gate, bodhi svaha ~ *Buddhist heart mantra*  
*Gone, gone, gone to the other shore, the beyond, to enlightenment. So may it be.*

**ANTHEM** *Ascension Prayer* T. Keesecker

*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

**OFFERTORY** *Meditation*

\***DOXOLOGY** *Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, B 17*  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia. Praise God in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word and Spirit One.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

\***PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION**

## LET US GO FORTH

\***HYMN** *O Holy God, Whose Gracious Power* B 535

\***BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *Chorale and Fugue on “A Mighty Fortress”* J. Denton

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

**Church Calendar this week:**

Monday, May 22, 5:00 pm – Fair Meeting

Monday, May 22, 6:30 pm – Scout Troop 33

Wednesday, May 24, 9:30 am – Pastoral Relations Circle (PRC)

Wednesday, May 24, 4:00 pm – Communications Circle

Thursday, May 24, 4:00 pm – Executive Circle

New Members

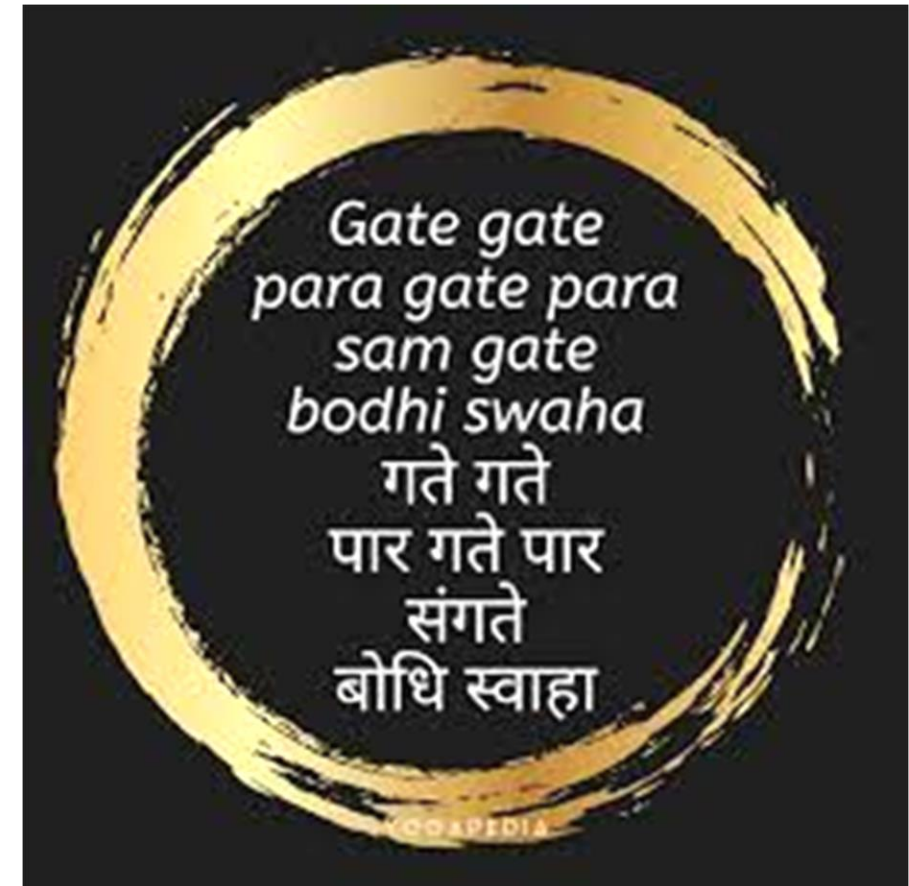
Early this summer we will create a time of welcome for anyone interested in becoming members or associate members of First Church. On Sunday morning, June 4, 2023, immediately following worship, we will host a membership orientation to answer questions, offer possibility, explore rights and responsibilities, and explain the different categories of connection (member, associate member, friend)! Then on Sunday morning, June 25, 2023, we will have a ceremony during our morning worship to welcome folks into the life of our church. If you are interested in membership in any category or have questions about the process, please talk with Steve or our moderator, Sam Greene or simply join us at the membership orientation.

Masks and Distancing

During this latest season of flu and new, highly contagious Covid strain we ask that you show compassion and care for our entire community by wearing a mask and keeping distance when possible. Many of our dear neighbors and friends are immunocompromised and we want everyone to feel welcome in our service.

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

Rev. Steve Miller: 605-670-0190 / [stevemiller@firstchurchinjaffrey.org](mailto:stevemiller@firstchurchinjaffrey.org)  
Church Moderator: Sam Greene / 603-533-5152 / [greenepraisal@gmail.com](mailto:greenepraisal@gmail.com)  
Minister of Music: Gene Faxon / 603-547-0213 / [genecfaxon@gmail.com](mailto:genecfaxon@gmail.com)  
Admin. Assist.: Judy Lessard / 603-532-7979 / [admin@firstchurchinjaffrey.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchinjaffrey.org)



**May 21, 2023**  
**Ascension Sunday**



**The First Church in Jaffrey**

*Gathered 1780*

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

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