

“ We cannot despair of humanity, since we are ourselves human beings.”
Albert Einstein, The world as I see it (1949)
“To confine our attention to terrestrial matters would be to limit the human spirit.”
Steven Hawking

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

LET US GATHER

PRELUDE The King Of Love My Shepherd Is H.S.Livingston, Jr.

WELCOME to ALL!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT Lead Me, Lord S.Wesley

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather here to bring together what has been separated.
P: **Each of us returns from our lives apart.**
L: Here, we seek to become a community,
P: **And so, to worship God.**
L: And in the interim, this community had been dissolved.
P: **But, it wasn’t!**
L: Were we not alone, and without each other?
P: **We conversed, we joined in picnics and in games and in meetings. And also in thoughts and in dreams, and in love.**
L: Then, I am wrong. We gather here not to bring together what has been separated.
P: **We gather here to bring together what has always been together!**

LET US PREPARE

*HYMN Take My Life, God, Let It Be B448

UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER (trespasses)

We are a part of one great, unified Creation. The stars sing, the planets dance, and were every human voice silenced, our voices would sound from the rocks and stones themselves. We speak into the void the great and unified Body of Humanity, the Body of Christ. Individuals, cells, dust motes, floating seeds, we are a part of something so much greater: a star-bound, expansive creature, seeking to witness and apprehend the greatness of God’s Creation. Now let us join in the Lord’s Prayer. “Our Father....Amen.”

LET US LISTEN

READINGS Romans 12:1-8
HYMN Like the Murmur of a Dove’s Song B270
REFLECTION The Body of Christ Pastor Mark Harris
ANTHEM Where Peace Has Always Been M.J.Trotta

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

LET US RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE B283
Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us peace, send us grace.

L: Let the people say ...
P: **Amen and Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY To A Wild Rose E.MacDowell

*DOXOLOGY B778 (tune: B780 L.Bourgeois 1551)
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKS AND DEDICATION**
Commend that which we individuals give back to the whole to the good of all. For our beings are as much a part of the whole as we are individual. Amen

LET US GO FORTH		
*HYMN	<i>God Our Author and Creator</i>	<i>B530</i>
*BENEDICTION		
*SEVEN FOLD AMEN		<i>R594</i>
POSTLUDE	<i>Carillon Toccata</i>	<i>J.K.F. Fischer</i>

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Ministers:	The People
Pastor:	Mark Harris
Minister of Music:	Gene Faxon
Worship Leader:	Rich Dufresne
Greeter:	Karen Shea Dufresne
Usher:	Sam Greene
Flowers:	Lisa Giragosian
Set Up:	Susan Peterson

Please join us in the Parish House after worship for coffee, this week provided by Pam Hill.

Cover art is the logo of an organization called Gathering Humanity, which uses donations and volunteers to furnish and decorate apartments for refugees and others in need in Arizona. www.gatheringhumanity.org

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August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.*