

“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies.” Groucho Marx

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

LET US GATHER

PRELUDE *Meditation on Be Thou My Vision* *R.Lau*

WELCOME to ALL!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Church In The Wildwood* *W. Pitts*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We join here to worship God and to find strength in our diversity.
P: **Although all quite different, we find strength together.**
L: Different parties, different ways of reaching our goals,
P: **we share values and care for our community and our world.**
L: When one chooses the path to the right, and the other the path on the left,
P: **we may part ways for a time.**
L: Though we represent a spectrum of ideas and opinions,
P: **we come together again in a community of love.**
L: None of us are defined by a letter after our name, or a sticker on our car.
P: **We are defined by God’s love for us, and our love of each other.**

LET US PREPARE

*HYMN *Nearer, My God, To You* *B606*

UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER (trespasses)

**In the great Body of Humanity, there are as many ways of moving
forward as there are gifts from God. We can never assume that there**

**is only one right answer, or only one right method. God grants us all
wisdom that arises from our unique perspective. Therefore, let us
meet together with flexibility, and openness to different ways of
understanding. Let love be our compass, and compassion be our guide
as we join in the Lord’s Prayer. “Our Father....Amen.”**

LET US LISTEN

READINGS *Matthew 16:21-28*
 Romans 12:9-21

HYMN *Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant* *B539*

REFLECTION *Your Political Pastor* *Pastor Mark Harris*

ANTHEM *Brother James’s Air* *arr.G.Jacob*

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

LET US RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Medema*
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 *Waitin’* *W.Bolcom*

*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

God, we do not seek credit for these gifts, nor do we expect anything precise in return. We give for the good of all, and to help build Your Realm here, on this Earth. Amen

LET US GO FORTH

*HYMN *Your Ways Are Not Our Own* B170

*BENEDICTION

*SEVEN FOLD AMEN R594

POSTLUDE *Ancient Of Days!* P. Taylor

Ministers: The People
Pastor: Mark Harris
Minister of Music: Gene Faxon
Worship Leader: Marcia Breckenridge
Greeter: Dan Isaacs
Usher: Sam Greene
Flowers: Dan Isaacs
Set Up: Susan Peterson

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

Cover art: The Politics and Poetry of New England, Alexander Gardner, 1863, Albumen silver print

Contact us! First Church in Jaffrey, PO Box 673, Jaffrey, NH 03452
www.firstchurchinjaffrey.org; 603-532-7979

Pastor: Mark Harris / 603-933-4477 / pastor@firstchurchinjaffrey.org
Minister of Music: Gene Faxon / 603-547-0213 / genecfaxon@gmail.com
Administrator: Karen Brown/ 603-562-5183 / admin@firstchurchinjaffrey.org



August 30, 2026

Fourteenth 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

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