

“Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude. That which I was not but could have been. That which I would have done but did not do. Can I find the fortitude to remember in truth, to understand, to submit, to forgive and to be free to move on in time?” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

LET US GATHER

PRELUDE Arioso J.S.Bach

WELCOME to ALL!

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT Ubi Caritas Live in Charity Taizé

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Some say an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.
P: Others say an eye for an eye and the whole world goes blind.
L: Some say revenge is a dish best served cold.
P: Others say before seeking revenge dig two graves.
L: Peter asked, “should I forgive even seven times?”
P: And Jesus replied, not seven, but seventy times seven.

LET US PREPARE

*HYMN Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind B502

UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER (trespasses)

Forgiveness is not something that we cannot be forced to do. Some wounds are so deep, some trespasses so dire, that we struggle to even cope with the way they alter our lives and beings. Yet still, to forgo retributive pursuits, and point our hearts towards reconciliation is a

kind of forgiveness in and of itself. Let us point our hearts towards reconciliation as we join in the Lord’s Prayer. “Our Father...Amen.”

LET US LISTEN

READINGS Matthew 18:21-35
HYMN Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive insert
REFLECTION On Forgiving Pastor Mark Harris
ANTHEM There Is A Balm arr. S.Poorman

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

LET US RESPOND

GATHERING OF 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.
(twice)
PRAYER
(and once more)
L: Let the people say ...
P: Amen and Amen.

Remembrance of the events of September 11th, 2001

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY My Lady Carey’s Dompe anon.
Margaret Hawthorn, recorder

*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.

Gracious God, who forgives and understands as we are not able, let these collected gifts help your church lead us in reconciliation and compassion, even for those who have wronged us. Amen

*HYMN	<i>Great Is Your Faithfulness</i>	<i>B423</i>
*BENEDICTION		
*SEVEN FOLD AMEN		<i>R594</i>
POSTLUDE	<i>Break Forth Into Joy</i>	<i>J.S. Bach</i>

Ministers:	The People
Pastor:	Mark Harris
Minister of Music:	Gene Faxon
Worship Leader:	Carol Hess
Greeter:	Betsey Potter
Usher:	Susan Peterson
Flowers:	Marianne Rothnie
Set Up:	Dan Isaacs and Joyce Petkovich

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

*Cover art: Revengeful Monsters, John Hamilton Mortimer, 1780.
Thanks to Nancy for content suggestions.*

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September 13, 2026
Sixteenth 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.*