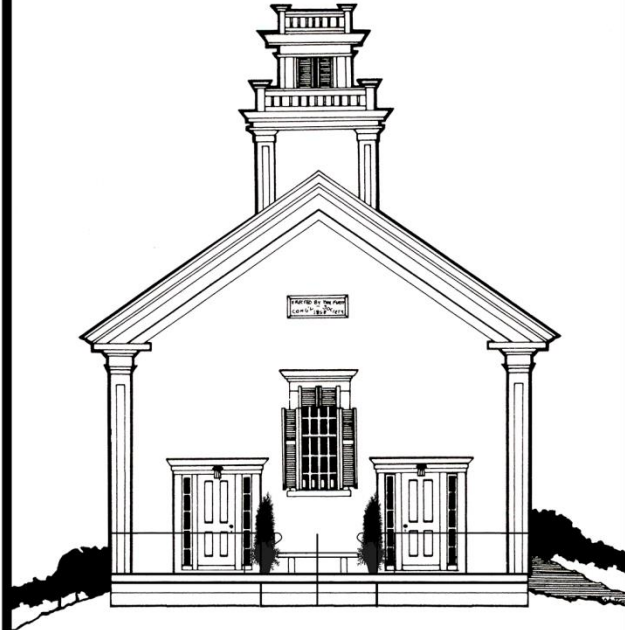


Church *on the* Rise



**First Congregational Church, UCC
Wilmot, New Hampshire**

*No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome in this
Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.*

***Order of Service for
Sunday, January 10, 2021***

Minister: Rev. Sara Marean

Music Director: William Ogmundson

ORDER of WORSHIP – January 10, 2021

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit

A Time of Silence to Center Ourselves

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

All: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling

All: “There is no longer Jew or Greek there is no longer slave or free there is no longer male or female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: Therefore, on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates.

One: Let us worship God!

HYMN “Sing of God Made Manifest” Chalice #176

**Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,
To whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,
Magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:
Myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king foretold.**

**Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,
“I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do.”
Then from heaven a double sign- dove-like Spirit, voice divine-
Hailed the true Anointed One: “This is my beloved Son.”**

**Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest
And at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;
Further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave, and healed,
Bringing light and life to all who would listen to God’s call.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**O God, we hear your voice and we see the way of Jesus set before us.
But it’s hard, dear God, to try again and again to live up to our baptismal vows
and maintain our resolve to be your people in the world.
Set us once again on a holy path that leads to you.
Call us and give us enough grace and mercy to follow your way. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:4-11

MESSAGE

REV. SARA MAREAN

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS

“We must hold boldly and fearlessly to our baptism, and hold it up against all sins and terrors of conscience, and humbly say, “I know full well that I have not a single work which is pure, but I am baptized, and through my baptism God, who cannot lie, has bound himself in a covenant with me, not to count my sins against me, but to slay it and blot it out.”- Martin Luther

INVITATION

SCRIPTURE (FROM 1 JOHN 4)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

RENEWAL AND AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Do you renew and affirm the promises made at your Baptism?

I do.

Do you recognize the call of God to be God’s people always?

I do.

Do you embrace the way of Jesus in faith and ministry?

I do.

Do you accept the nurture of the Holy Spirit who renews your spirit each day?

I do.

Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

I do.

In renewing your baptismal vows, remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance and welcome into the care of Christ's church where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

PRAYER

ACT OF BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

(You are invited to dip your fingers in water and, making the sign of the cross on your forehead or hand, say 'I am God's beloved child.' If you are with someone else you may do this for them.)

BLESSING

O God, we rejoice in your grace, given and received.

We thank you that you claim us, that you wash us, strengthen us, and guide us, that you empower us to live a life worthy of our calling.

In the way of Jesus, make us as water in a dry and thirsty world.

Establish us to be places of refreshment. Root us and nurture us in love, that with all your people, we may rightly and justly serve you. Fill us with your fullness that our lives may overflow in service and love. Amen.

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise NCH #325

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.**

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.**

MORNING PRAYERS

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer followed by **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our * who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and
the glory forever. Amen**

**We have come to know God by many different names and images. Please use the one which speaks from your heart today. (e.g. Father, Mother, Creator...)*

Prayer Response Hymn #658 Restless Weaver (Verse 4)

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life now and yet to be.
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry.
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love Guide all we do.
With your Reign of Peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation and Offertory

Response (Tune: "For the Beauty of the Earth")

As they offered gifts most rare, at the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you from whom they spring.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, bless us in our baptismal calling to be in ministry of showing hospitality to others. We offer the gifts that we have been given to be used not for conquest and dominance, but for use in liberating the poor and hurting people who pray for our liberation as well as their own. Receive and multiply our gifts for life-giving ministry. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "In Water We Grow" Chalice #375

In water we grow, secure in the womb,
And speechlessly know love's safety and room.
Baptizing and blessing, we publish for good
The freeing, caressing safe keeping of God.

In water we wash: the dirt of each day,
Its trouble and rush are carried away.
In Christ recreated by love's cleansing art,
Self-will and self-hatred dissolve and depart.

In water we dwell, for by its deep flow
Through blood-stream and cell, we live, think and grow.
Praise God, love outflowing, whose well of new birth
Baptizes our knowing, and waters the earth.

COMMISSIONING ONE ANOTHER

Go into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION and SUNG RESPONSE "Alleluia!"