"YHWH’S favor is not exhausted, nor has God’s compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God’s faithfulness.”  Lamentations 3:22-23, The Inclusive Bible

New Hampshire Conference
United Church of Christ

2021 Annual Meeting Worship Service
Sunday, October 17, 2021

Full Transcript
THE LITURGY FOR MORNING WORSHIP

Gathering Music

“The Storm is Passing Over”
(Author: Charles Albert Tindley. Score: www.hymnary.com Copyright: Public Domain)
Arranged and Performed by the Jazz Sanctuary House Band at First Congregational Church, Concord

“Draw the Circle Wide”
(Lyrics by Gordon Light, Music by Mark A. Miller. All rights reserved. Podcast/Streaming with Permission Under One License #A-725724. All rights Reserved.)
Performed by the Congregational Church of Hollis Choir

Greeting and Welcome

The Rev. Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC
The Rev. Richard Slater, Associate Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC

Good morning,

I am the Reverend Richard Slater, Associate Conference Minister of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, and I welcome you to our Annual Meeting Worship this morning. For the second year in a row, our New Hampshire Conference Annual Meeting is being held virtually. While we long to be back together for this important gathering in the life of our church, we also realized that it provides us opportunities. And what a blessed opportunity it is to be able to share our worship with all our churches. Some of you may be using a few components of this worship service and others may be using this service in its entirety…either way, it is a gift to be worshiping together.

I am the Reverend Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. Our service this morning will include the Sacrament of Communion. We would invite you to gather whatever communion elements you would like to receive.

We offer thanks to our Annual Meeting Worship Team and Planning Committee for all their efforts in the preparation of this service. This morning, as we have all weekend, we will be exploring our Annual Meeting theme of “Building Beloved Community”.

Let us gather ourselves for worship.
Call to Worship (Based on Great is Your Faithfulness, New Century Hymnal #423)
First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, North Conway, New Hampshire

Leader: Great is your faithfulness, O God Creator

People: With you, no shadow of turning we see

Leader: You do not change

People: Your compassions they fail not

All: All of your goodness forever will be.

Hymn: “Called as Partners in Christ's Service” New Century Hymnal #495
(Text: © 1981 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under One License #S-921541. All rights reserved.)
Performed by South Church, Concord, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ

Verse 1
Called as partners in Christ's service
Called to ministries of grace
We respond with deep commitment
Fresh new lines of faith to trace
May we learn the art of sharing
Side by side and friend with friend
Equal partners in our caring
To fulfil God's chosen end

Verse 2
Christ's example Christ's inspiring
Christ's clear call to work and worth
Let us follow never faltering
Reconciling folk on earth
Men and women richer poorer
All God's people young and old
Blending human skills together
Gracious gifts from God unfold

Verse 3
Thus new patterns for Christ's mission
In a small or global sense
Help us bear each other's burdens
Breaking down each wall or fence
Words of comfort words of vision
Words of challenge said with care
Bring new power and strength for action
Make us colleagues free and fair

Verse 4
So God grant us for tomorrow
Ways to order human life
That surround each person’s sorrow
With a calm that conquers strife
Make us partners in our living
Our compassion to increase
Messengers of faith thus giving
Hope and confidence and peace

The People’s Prayers for Healing and Hope
Introduction of Lament by a Spiritual Care Chaplain Concord VNA:

For being a chaplain in the time of Covid, I lament. For all the people in nursing homes, who are separated from their loved ones, I lament. For people with dementia, who don’t even know why their loved ones have suddenly disappeared, I lament. For all of their family members waiting outside, for a window visit, or a glimpse, I lament. For trying to do a ministry of presence, while wearing all of this, I lament. For trying to do a ministry of presence, without being present, I lament.

Written and narrated by Rev Sean Dunker-Bendigo, South Church, UCC in Concord & Rev Gail Doktor, Jackson Community Church, UCC.

O Holy One, source of all love, hear the voices of your children, the member congregations of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the prayers we lift up together as a church wide community of faith.

This past year has felt empty, draining, strange, overwhelming, confusing, a blur going by too fast, frustrating. It has felt like a mixture of gains and losses. The past year has felt challenging and inspiring to us.

We lost connections, including connections to many loved ones in our lives. We lost too many friends and loved ones. We lost in-person worship, beloved activities, time together, music, and community.

We remember how it felt to gather together for worship and meals. We remember
better, healthier times, gatherings, and activities. We remember the old days: Croydon singers, our church choirs. We remember freedom and our loved ones, those we have lost.

What hurt was the daily reality of missing our loved ones. What hurt was our own isolation and seeing the isolation of others. What hurt was not celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and holidays physically in person. What hurt was being so abruptly cut off from one another, from the church building, from our worship life as we know it. What hurt was no good-byes between pastor and church community. What hurt was not hugging and missing family.

And yet. And yet, we discovered we are strong. That we have strengths we didn’t know we had. That there were silver linings in the midst of the gray. We discovered how nice it was for the family to have dinner together every night. We discovered new ways of being together safely and virtually. We discovered unexpected creativity, zoom awesome virtual choir performances, and a greater ability to learn and adapt than we could ever have imagined. Endless possibilities. We discovered that life’s ups and downs were not all bad. That we still had both good times and some times that were sorrowful. We discovered ongoing faith and daily prayer. We discovered humanity, love for each other, nature, hope, and resiliency.

We gained new skills for connecting, a little more technological savvy, and growing online presence and congregation. We gained appreciation for the little things in life, tolerance, and a little more weight. We gained sensitivity, a broader way of seeing and knowing ourselves, and new friendships. We gained strength, and a sense of balance to life.

We remain grateful for family, church, ingenuity, our minsters and their work, and the ability to worship and adapt when we could. We remain grateful for new friends, enduring friendships, for nature, and the opportunity to see how much our environment can heal if we just stop our hurtful, careless ways. Above all we remain grateful for the grace of God, and God’s eternal presence through it all.

We celebrated the little things, such as taking note of things we didn’t notice before, like ladybugs, or a person’s smile or hugs. We celebrated laughter, friendships, family. We celebrated the creativity and innovation that has come out of this time. We celebrated the ability to launch a capital campaign to replace our aged heating system, so that we have an even better church for the community to return to for worship and activities. And we celebrated how well we stayed
connected as a community.

Now as we gather we pray for the ways in which Covid is still rampant in our world and we pray for new developments to end this pandemic. We pray for people and places that don’t have access to healthcare, vaccinations, and other essential resources. And we pray about the realization that we do have access to these resources. And we pray for people struggling with mental health challenges. We pray that we may not only find a healing way, but also learn and grow from this unique time. We pray for God’s continued guidance and blessing as we find our way forward. We pray for peace and unity. We pray for health and happiness. We pray for continued strength, continued patience, hopefulness, and the Lord's presence in all of this.

O Divine, you who have lifted everything from the know of all nothing, you who provide a way where there was no way, you of abundance and blessing, hear our heartfelt prayers. Act with your love and creativity and may we respond out of much abundance through your beloved community into our world. Amen.

Anthem: “We Could Change the World”
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Performed by the New Hampshire Conference Statewide Virtual Choir, under the direction of Billy Carleton Jr, Choir Director, Jackson Community Church.

Scripture
Charles Lewis, Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC

Lamentations 3:22-23 (The Inclusive Bible)
“YHWH’S favor is not exhausted, nor has God’s compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God’s faithfulness.”.

1 Corinthians 13 (NRSV)

The Gift of Love
If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to
remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

SERMON “Building Fails and Successes”

The Rev. Gordon M. Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC,

Prayer: May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable unto Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

When I was a young boy of four or five, my grandfather gave me one of my favorite presents ever – a workbench. He had built it with his own hands. On the back of it was this wonderful peg board covered in tools of all kinds. There were screwdrivers and pliers and wrenches and a level and a hammer. I could spend hours nailing nails into a block of wood or using the screwdrivers and wrenches to take something apart – something that was very unlikely to ever get put back together. Eventually, I came to understand myself as a master builder.

It was not long, however, before the light bulb in the goose-necked light that my grandfather had attached to the workbench had burnt out. Well, no problem. I was after all a master builder. I grabbed my screwdriver and I shoved it right into the heart of that light fixture. Sparks flew up, a big puff of smoke in the air, the circuit for the basement popped and I think it would be safe to say that no light bulb ever worked in that light fixture again. I learned at a very early age what a building fail looked like.
Our theme for this year’s Conference Annual Meeting has been “Building Beloved Community”. It is not lost on me that we are living through a time when we feel a lot less certain about our Beloved Community building abilities. So many things have changed. So many things are uncertain. We know the church is changing. There are not the same numbers in our pews. Our culture no longer carves out the space for church. And then you layer on top of that the rollercoaster of the pandemic. Who has even heard of the hybrid worship two years ago anyway? It can easily feel as though ministry in 2021 comes with no playbook. How do we build Beloved Community in this time without a building fail?

For me, 1 Corinthians 12 and 13 are our primer for building Beloved Community. Both chapters are pretty well known scripture passages, though perhaps often we don’t think of chapter 13 in the context of speaking to church as much as we ought to.

As a reminder, 1 Corinthians 12 is the chapter which tells us God has dispersed spiritual gifts everywhere. There are differing spiritual gifts – some have prophetic wisdom and some have grounded-ness in the Spirit; some will excel at caretaking, some at sharing their stories of faith, and some at giving witness to where grace can be found. All kinds of gifts are scattered among the people of God.

We are to take these gifts which are left in our care and work together as Beloved Community. We are to work together in the way in which the parts of the body work together. Everyone doing their part. For together we are not only more effective, but we are being who God call us to be.

Then at the end of Chapter 12 there is this wonderful line, “And I will show you an even more excellent way” to be Beloved Community. And, boom, Chapter 13 is that way. If there is anything in all of our scriptures where we are told what it means to be Beloved Community, it is 1 Corinthians 13.

Now perhaps it is my own history with building fails, but one of the things that strikes me about 1 Corinthians 13 is that it starts with this list of building fails. I may have these amazing God-granted gifts for influencing or engaging, but if they are not used to invite love, they are merely a shrieking sound. I may be able to talk about the scriptures or the history of the church or theological principles for endless hours, but not to draw forth the love of God from the hearts of God’s people, well then I am nothing but a distraction from the true work of Beloved community. I can even be the most sacrificing person around, but if I do so to benefit myself or my ego rather than the welfare of others, I have failed at being who God is calling me to be.
When it comes to building Beloved Community, there are so many ways to be sticking screwdrivers into light fixtures. The good news is that there is one clear way, even during the most uncertain of times, to know that you are not doing so. That you are not doing a building fail. In actual building, there are many measures of how to build something successfully – height, and width, and depth, and level, and plumb. But in 1 Corinthians 13 it makes quite clear that for building Beloved Community there is one measure and only one measure that matters – love. If something is done without love, it is a fail. When something is built with love it will always be a success.

1 Corinthians 13 goes on to talk about building successes. It describes what using love in building looks like. “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.” When hearing these descriptions of love, what really kind of hits me the most in the face is that these seem different from the way our society as a whole seems to want to live right now. There seems to be so little patience or kindness. They quest for societal power seems to be creating plenty of envy, boastfulness, arrogance, and rudeness. There are many among us who believe that wrong is right if it gets you what you want and truth is an illusion to accomplish that.

Church, I believe that one of the things that we need to take away from this scripture is that if we are going to truly be about building Beloved Community, with love as our sole measure, then we are going to look different than the world around us. We are going to stand out. Heck, we might even be chastised because our faith calls us to value different things.

One of the privileges of my position is I get to watch as our churches engage such countercultural ways of building Beloved Community. I see churches spending their summer days packing lunches for children in need and their families. I have seen churches using technology to be present with those who are feeling alone in the hospital even when they couldn’t physically be with them. I have watched churches hang rainbow flags outside of their buildings to be sure that people in their community know that there is a place where they can be that they can feel safe and valued and love. I have seen folks in our churches stich together quilts with the last words of George Floyd on them, not only as a remembrance to this beloved child of God, but also as a cry for justice. I’ve seen our churches fill an entire shipping container full of items for our partners in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe. In doing such things, we may look different than much of what is happening in the rest of the world. But if we are to build with love at our core and love as our sole measure, look different we should.
There is one final part of 1 Corinthians 13 that I would draw our attention towards. It is these words: “Love bear all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” I wholehearted believe that if we are truly invested in building Beloved Community, one of the things we must do is take risks. Love does not play it safe. A community that is invested in growing love goes all in on what such love may require, even when it may come with a cost.

I sometimes get asked why the United Church of Christ is the church that I have chosen to be a part of. The answer to that really can be summed up by two historic statements of the church. We’ll save one of them for another day. The one I’d raise up today predates the formation of the United Church of Christ. In 1943, in anticipation of a potential merger, representatives of the Congregational Christian churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church wrote a document explaining what was unfolding entitled the Basis of Union. The preamble of this document talks about how all denominations are indeed part of one Church, the Church of Jesus Christ. In the third paragraph of this preamble, this statement is made, “Believing that denominations exist not for themselves but as parts of that Church, within which each denomination is to live and labor and, if need be, die”. In this statement I hear the commitment that should the opportunity arise for us to love in bigger, broader, bolder ways, we should give up who we are now to become what love is calling us to be. It is that risk-taking commitment that draws me to be a part of the Beloved Community known as the United Church of Christ.

The task of ministry – the task of building Beloved Community may well feel uncertain and unfamiliar in these days. Our impulse then may be to hold back as to not risk a building fail. I hope that we act counter to that urge. I draw upon inspiration from one of the prophetesses of this year, Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman. In her poem, The Miracle of the Morning she writes:

“While we might feel small, separate, and all alone,
Our people have never been more closely tethered.
The question isn’t whether we will weather this unknown,
But how we will weather this unknown together.
So on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend.
Like light, we can’t be broken, even when we bend.
We ignite not in the light, but in the lack thereof,
For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.”

If Ms. Gorman’s words are true, and I believe that they are, we as prepared as we have ever been. If we have learned, during these uncertain days, to love in new ways, then we
have everything, everything we need to be God’s Beloved Community. Amen

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE
The Rev. Stacey Kullgren, Pastor, Unified Ministerial Mentoring Team, Chair

We ask that you consider accessing our online donation portal to make a contribution to support the formation of our Members-in-Discernment of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. You may also mail your contributions to NHCUCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275, with a memo noting this is your Annual Meeting offering.

The Call to Give
At little bit over two years ago, six of our seven Associations voted to participate in the Unified Ministerial Mentoring Team and our work was initiated. This body was envisioned in response to the calls of our Committees on Church and Ministry for more consistency in walking with the Members in Discernment of this Conference, while honoring their diversity, by embracing multiple paths to ordination.

As the work of the Unified Ministerial Mentoring Team was conceptualized the needs for community building among our Members in Discernment and advanced training opportunities were recognized.

We are now ten months living into this work. We know these needs to be integral to the future of this program and our Members in Discernment. Your offering for this Annual Meeting will assist us in providing retreats and training identified as necessary through our relationships with our Members in Discernment. We envision opportunities to engage in programs addressing Implicit Bias and anti-racism work; spiritual growth and self-knowledge; organizational systems; and community change; as well as events that invite our Members in Discernment to grow their entrepreneurial spirit in ministry; and so much more.

In the coming moments we will be sharing with you pictures from those in our Conference who are and have been engaged in discernment toward ordination in the United Church of Christ. I ask you, during this time, to pray: Let your heart be filled by the ways we are blessed by those we journey with us in this process. And ask yourself what kind of contribution God is calling you to make to this work.
The Gathering of the Offerings: “The Summons”
(Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, © 1987, Iona Community, Tune: Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1987, Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with permission under One License #S-921541. All rights reserved. All photos used by permission.)
Performed and recorded by Virginia Bailey, BSO Soprano for the 220th New Hampshire Conference Annual Meeting:

1. Will you come and follow me
   If I but call your name?
   Will you go where you don't know
   And never be the same?
   Will you let my love be shown,
   Will you let my name be known,
   Will you let my life be grown
   In you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind
   If I but call your name?
   Will you care for cruel and kind
   And never be the same?
   Will you risk the hostile stare
   Should your life attract or scare?
   Will you let me answer prayer
   In you and you in me?

3. Will you let the blinded see
   If I but call your name?
   Will you set the pris'ners free
   And never be the same?
   Will you kiss the leper clean,
   And do such as this unseen,
   And admit to what I mean
   In you and you in me?

4. Will you love the 'you' you hide
   If I but call your name?
   Will you quell the fear inside
   And never be the same?
   Will you use the faith you've found
   To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?

5. Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.

The Blessing
Beloved, let us take this moment together offer a blessing on our offerings and on our Members in Discernment and those who are gathered around them offering support, love, challenge, and care.

Let us pray: O God of abundance, we are grateful today for the ways you call us into ministry together. We thank you for those who are called to lead us in the work of our faith. We bless, with you O God, those who are preparing for leadership of this denomination, this church, our faith communities, our world. We bless with you those who engage in a mutual discernment with them, those who offer the loving challenges they need to grow so that they may be their becoming. We bless with you our offerings to this work, our covenantal lives. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION / ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Call to Confession
Ann Siglin, Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC

Please join me, as together we confess our need for God's grace, forgiveness, healing, and strength.
Prayer of Confession

All: Author of Love, creator of community: we yearn to realize your hope for creation, your vision for humankind, but confess that we are too often not patient. Or kind. We are too easily envious, arrogant, boastful, and rude. We insist on our own way. We can be irritable and resentful and are perplexed to find ourselves delighting in the suffering of our enemies when we know we should be praying for their wellbeing, and our own humble transformation. Forgive us, we pray.

Help us, by your Love abiding within, to bear and believe, to hope and endure with you in the midst of all that challenges our desire to live as your Beloved Community.

We pray by the strength of the One who taught us how it’s done, our brother and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Pastor, Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC

Dear members of Christ’s Beloved Community, hear the Good News, the Gospel truth Jesus proclaimed in so many ways: The steadfast love of YHWH never ceases, and God’s mercies and compassion never end; they rise up anew every morning! Great is God’s faithfulness, assuring us of pardon and endlessly inviting us to embrace, enjoy, and embody the love and grace extended to us. Thanks and glory be to God!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION


Invitation “All Belong Here”


When you’re not sure who you really are.
When all you feel is the shape of your scars.
And you have more wounds than you can count.
Open your eyes, look all around,
You aren’t alone, this is your home.
Come and remember who you are here.
Do this to remember who I am.
Come and remember you belong here.
All belong here.

When you don’t know how to forgive.
When locked doors seem like the only way to live.
And you have more questions than you can count.
Open your eyes, look all around,
You aren’t alone, this is your home.
Come and remember who you are here.
Do this to remember who I am.
Come and remember you belong here.
All belong here.

At this table come as you are.
Broken and bleeding’s ok.
At this table eat and be filled.
Come and drink in this grace. (2x)

Come and remember who you are here.
Do this to remember who I am.
Come and remember you belong here.
All belong here.

Words of Institution/Remembrance, Break, Lift
We are gathered by God’s Spirit to share this sacred time, to remember whose we are, to retell and remember how Immanuel – God with us – on the evening of his betrayal and arrest was eating with his community of disciples.

And how while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body."

Then when Jesus had taken a cup and given thanks, he gave it to them and they all drank from it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, do this in remembrance of me."

Epiclesis/Prayer of Consecration
Gracious and healing God, we come with our scars and our hopes seeking the one who touched the scars of the outcast and the powerful, who bore his wounds to remind us that we are not alone. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us scattered and

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yet gathered in spirit, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Let them be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we may remember who we are and embody for the world the body of Christ. Liberated by his witness, passion and life teach us to tear down walls and build bridges, embolden us to a greater love that makes room for all in community. Be with us, Holy Spirit, fill us so you can move in and through us. Amen.

Sharing - The gifts of God for the people of God – all is ready – receive and rejoice.

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving
Holy God, we praise You and thank You for these gifts of bread and drink that are manifestations of Your faithful love and compassion. By Your mercy may they nurture and grow this, Your beloved body of Christ, in Your world. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer
*Shared by the Brookline Community Church, UCC & UMC*

Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: “We Would Be Building” New Century Hymnal #607
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*Performed by South Church, Concord, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ*

**Verse 1**
We would be building; temples still undone
O’er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift;
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone,
And hearts creative bridge the human rift;
We would be building,
Architect Divine,
Reveal the shape of life in your design.
**Verse 2**
Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
We set the dream that hardens into deed,
Ribbed with fine steel both time and change to mock
The unfailing purpose of our noblest creed;
Teach us to build;
O Maker, lend us sight
To see the towers gleaming in the light.

**Verse 3**
O keep us building, Savior; may our hands
Ne’er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will departs;
We build with you,
O grant enduring worth
Until your promised realm shall come on earth.

**Benediction**
*The Rev. Gordon M. Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC,*

Go. Bless and be blessed. Go. Love and be loved. Go. Renew and be renewed.
And know that in your blessings, loving and renewing, you are building God’s Beloved Community. Amen.

**Postlude: Church Bell Ringing Composite**
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Annual Meeting Statewide Virtual Choir
Steve Allbee, Jackson Community Church; Ben Allen, First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, East Derry; Debbie Gline Allen, First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, East Derry; Anne Ballam, First Congregational Church, Haverhill; Billy Carleton, Jr., Choir Director, Jackson Community Church; Dorothy Graaskamp, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Darlene Graczyk, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Suzanne Munroe, Jackson Community Church; Meg Phillips, Jackson Community Church; Rev. Nancy Talbott, Congregational Church of North Barnstead; Bart Wetherbee, Congregational Church, Atkinson; Robert Owen Williams, Community Church of Christ, Franconia.

The Annual Meeting Worship Planning Committee

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee
Cindy Bradley and Ann Desrochers (Support Staff).

Call to Worship - First Church of Christ Congregational, UCC, North Conway
Rev. John Hogue, Gerry Tilton, and Helen Goss with Rev. Gail Doktor of Jackson Community Church, UCC, Jackson, NH.

Congregational Church of Hollis Choir
Bob Burns, Shirley Coleman, Dan Ericson, Dian Fallier, Lilian Garruba, Lina Hsu, Chris Hyde, Dot Hyde, Matt Kopser, Julie Kopser, John Lumbard, Drew Mason, Judy McCoy, Robin Parlee, Pat Petrasek, Joel Rasmussen, Mike Secules, Ann Siglin, April Springfield, Dee Wagner, and Marilyn Wehrle. Directed by Julie Oliver.

Credits
Special thanks to Mr. James Allan and Mr. Timothy Griffin for sharing their technology expertise in the editing and production of our virtual Annual Meeting Worship Service.
Jazz Sanctuary House Band at First Congregational Church, Concord
Rev. Emilia Halstead, Mr. Jock Irvine, Mr. Ed Raczka, and Rev. Dr. Timothy Wildman

Liturgy
Many thanks to Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen for the Prayer of Confession/Assurance of Pardon; to Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight and Rev. Dr. Lynn Wickberg for the inspiring Sacrament of Communion liturgies; and to Alan Labrie, Music Director, Jackson Community Church for providing the “Music Freewrite in C” background music tracks.

Lord’s Prayer - Brookline Community Church
Ms. Cindy Perkins, Mr. Sanjay Cherian, Mrs. Nancy Dunbar, Ms. Carol Cherian, the Shaklee Family, Mrs. Amy Razzaboni, Mrs. Susan and Mr. Russel Haight, Mrs. Linda Saari, Mrs. Candy Tiner, Mr. Yifan Kang, Mr. John Nicholson, Rev. Catherine Merrill, the Sawick-Danckert Family, and the Aitken Family

Postlude
New Hampshire communities participating in our closing bell carillon are: Horton Center, Star Island, Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC, Deerfield Community Church, UCC, Brookline Community Church, and Jackson Community Church. Rev. Gail Doktor, of the Jackson Community Church, provided the editing for this video.

The People’s Prayers for Healing and Hope
Introduction of Lament from a Spiritual Care Chaplain Concord VNA. Written and narrated by Rev. Sean Dunker-Bendigo, South Church, UCC in Concord & Rev. Gail Doktor, Jackson Community Church, UCC. Prayer written using contributions by deacons Wendy McVey, Tish Hanlon, Sue Carrigan, Robert Carper, Eileen McDonald, and Sandy Louis of Jackson Community Church, and prayer responses delivered by email from Rev. Tara Olsen Allen of Pilgrim United Church of Christ, UCC in Brentwood; Rev. Pam Spain (retired pastor); Rev. Donna Vuilleumier of Smith Memorial Church, UCC of Hillsboro; and Erin Wessells, First Congregational Church of Croydon.

South Church, Concord, Choir