“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
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

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:  
Written and narrated by Rev Sean Dunker-Bendigo, South Church, UCC in Concord & Rev Gail Doktor, Jackson Community Church, UCC.
Anthem: “We Could Change the World”
(Words and Music by Jonas Myrin, Jason Ingram, and Matt Redman. Copyright © 2011 Thankyou Music (PRS) (adm. worldwide at CapitolCMGPublishing.com excluding Europe which is adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family. Songs@integritymusic.com) / Atlas Mountain Songs (BMI) worshiptogether.com Songs (ASCAP) sixsteps Music (ASCAP) (adm. at apitolCMGPublishing.com) All rights reserved. Used by permission. So Essential Tunes (SESAC) / Spirit Nashville Three (formerly West Main Music) (SESAC) / Spirit One Music o/b/o Spirit Nashville Three o/b/o Spirit Services Holdings, S.A.R.L. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Charles Lewis, Congregational Church of Hollis, UCC
Performed by the New Hampshire Conference Statewide Virtual Choir, under the direction of Billy Carleton Jr, Choir Director, Jackson Community Church.

Scripture Lamentations 3:22-23 (The Inclusive Bible) and 1 Corinthians 13 (NRSV)

Sermon “Building Fails and Successes”
The Rev. Gordon M. Rankin, Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC

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

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:

The Blessing
PRAYER OF CONFESSION / ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
The Rev. Gordon M. Rankin, Conference Minister and The Rev. Richard N. Slater, Associate Conference Minister, New Hampshire Conference, UCC

Invitation “All Belong Here”

Words of Institution/Remembrance, Break, Lift

Epiclesis/Prayer of Consecration

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_

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*

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