

**Order of Worship for November 15, 2020**  
**The First Congregational Church of Hanover**  
**An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ**  
**The Rev. Dr. John A. Terry, Interim Pastor**  
**Mr. Chad Weirick, Minister of Music**

**Words of Welcome**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 90)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

**Invocation**

Ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Scripture Introduction**

**Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 25:14-30

14 For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?' <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but

from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### **\*Gloria Patri**

#### **Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee***

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest, Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest! Loving Father, Christ our Brother, Let Your light upon us shine; Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began; God's own love is reigning o'er us, Joining people hand in hand. Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife; Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.



#### **Sermon: *Enter the Joy***

#### **Signs of Friendship and Peace**

#### **Hymn: *We Give Thee But Thine Own***

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.

To comfort and to bless, to find a balm for woe, to tend the lone and fatherless is angels' work below.

And we believe thy Word, though dim our faith may be; whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Dedication of Pledges**

#### **The Offering**

#### **The Doxology**

#### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**