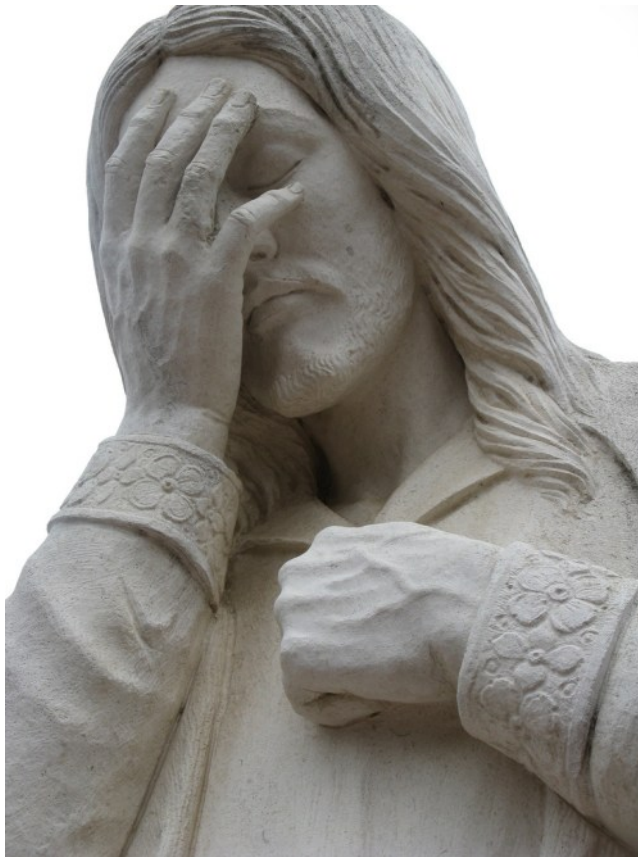




First Congregational Church of Hanover

United Church of Christ

We Strive to Be a Church that Welcomes All and Empowers All in
Christ to Share Their God Given Talents.



March 22, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

***Please stand, as you are able.**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.

People: **We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

Leader: Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

People: **We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

Leader: Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them.

People: **We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

***Opening Hymn**

Come, You Disconsolate

Blue Hymnal #502

Morning Prayer

God of mercy, we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life. Lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried and call us out from the tombs of despair. Call forth our faith that, with Martha, we may know you to be the resurrection and the life, in this world and the world to come. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Anthem

Scripture Reading

John 11:1-45

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken

him.”¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

***Gloria Patri**

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. Johnston

*Sermon Hymn

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

Blue Hymnal #254

Prayer cards will be collected during the singing of the hymn

The Offertory

Invitation to Giving

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

A Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows the first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows the second system of musical notation for the hymn, continuing from the first system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature and time signature remain the same. The melody and bass line continue. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Sharing
and

of Joys

Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



Sunday's Servants

We greet you today.

The Lay Reader is Cindy Taylor.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Jill and John Matson.

The Deacon of the month is Karen Tripp.

The flowers are given by the Flower Committee

The steeple lighting for March is given by Cynthia Woods in memory of Philip Woods.

Our Prayer List

Peace and justice to all

Those in the military

Sherri, Lynn White's sister, recovering from a stroke

Kathy Talbot, in rehab at Webster Park in Rockland

Bob Rafferty, recovering from a procedure

The family of Ken Carpenter, Adrienne Rafferty's uncle, on his passing March 9

The Zawalich grandchildren

The Fiske family on the passing of their cat

Darius Fiske, who is struggling

Janet Cook, recovering from a serious fall

Vince Mood, friend of Hal Thomas, who lost his house in a fire

Matthew, who has mental health issues

Libby, granddaughter of Sue Jones, at Children's Boston for cancer

Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Barbara Itz, at BrightView in N. Andover

Lynn White, at the Pat Roche Hospice Home in Hingham

Kerri, Bill & Patti MacLennan's daughter, brain cancer

Donald, brother-in-law of MaryBeth Tarnauskas, with cancer

Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione

Irene & Wally Reed

Ericka Penney

Thanks from the bottom of my heart for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and gestures of thoughtfulness given to me during the recovery of my home accident. I also deeply appreciate the support of CE Committee, Hospitality Committee, and several other folks who helped to present the successful puppet show. Lastly, thanks to Louise, Elisabeth, Glenda and Dean who taught Sunday School so the children could continue the lessons without interruption. I am blessed to be a part of a wonderful and caring church family!
With gratitude, Janet



YARD SALE

Church Yard Sale
Saturday, April 11 9-2

Looking for donations!! So gather all of your unwanted items and drop them off upstairs in Riley Hall on T & Th 9-2 and W & Sat 10-2. Questions, reach out to Adrienne adrraf@verizon.net



Calling for Sunday School Teachers! Calling for Nursery/Toddler Caretakers!

Will you help out and sign up to give your time for a couple of Sundays from now through April? Just 2 consecutive Sundays will do the trick for Sunday School and any Sunday will be appreciated for on call Nursery/Toddler Care. See Janet with any questions or email jcookie4@hotmail.com

MainSpring Ministry



As a reminder, the MainSpring sign-up sheet is beside the flower sign-up in the vestry. There are available slots in the coming months to serve this vulnerable population and worthwhile long-time mission of our church. Questions - contact Dayna at dscribi23@yahoo.com
“And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, then your light will rise in the



Lenten Giving

Let your hearts do the collecting, and we'll do the counting! One more week to collect coins for our church-wide Lenten Giving Project! Please bring collection tubes (or the container you've been using) to church next week on Palm Sunday. The Hanover Food Pantry will receive our donations. Thank you!

Bring Joy to the Altar with Easter Flowers

You may donate lilies to decorate our altar on Easter Sunday, April 5. Members of the, Flower Committee will be in the Vestry during coffee hour on March 22 and 29 accepting orders. Or, complete this order form and return with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate with payment folded inside. **The deadline for ordering is Monday, March 30.** The price is \$15 each.

Given by: _____

Number of Lilies: _____ at \$15 each Total Enclosed \$ _____

In (Memory/Honor) of: _____



March 29 Easter Egg Hunt
Egg Hunt, Games, Activities

Come to this free community event! It will be held rain or shine. What a great way to have fun with your family and friends on a Sunday afternoon!

Contact Janet @ 781-826-4762

Looking for Sunday afternoon fun??



First Congregational
Church of Hanover
United Church of Christ

FREE
Community Event
Easter Egg
Hunt

Sunday, March 29th

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

17 Silver St-Hanover, MA

(Held rain or shine)

**Egg Hunt and
More!**
Games & prizes!

Join us!
Bring a friend!
All welcome!

We care about kids!!

Questions?? Contact Janet @ 781-826-4762





We are grateful that you are with us this morning. We hope you find nurture in our worship and warmth in the fellowship of our congregation.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please take a brochure from the pew racks and fill out a Connect Card and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to a minister. Please take a moment to meet the ministers following the worship service.

Large print copies of the bulletins are available from the ushers.

We are a praying church. If you would like to lift joys or concerns during the time of prayer, please fill out a prayer card found in the pews. These will be collected during the second hymn, and read by the minister. You may also lift names aloud during the time of prayer.

Restrooms are located on the lower level of the church. There is an elevator behind the door at the front right of the church.

Join us! Following worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment downstairs in the Vestry. (Just follow the crowd.)



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