



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.



Sunday, May 04, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Third Sunday of Easter

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: God, you call us from the corners of the Earth.

People: From the cities and the prairies, from the ghettos and the tables of the wealthy.

Leader: God, you sing to us from the corners of the universe.

People: In the gentle ocean breeze, in the colors that burst forth from our landscapes, in the faces of children ravaged by war.

Leader: God, you speak to us from the corners of the Earth.

People: To the east, to the west, to the north and to the south, above us, below us, and within us, your voice rings clear.

All: Send your voice to sing in us, we pray, as we worship this day.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Processional Hymn**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

#187 Red Hymnal

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, though you should guide us, we inform ourselves; though you should rule us, we control ourselves; though you should fulfill us, we console ourselves. We think your truth too high, your will too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! And without them, we are of all people most miserable. Now heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your law, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Hear the good news: Through Jesus Christ, we are accepted, loved and forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalm 8

¹ O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. ³ When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; ⁴ what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? ⁵ Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Acts 9:1-6

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

***Gloria Patri**

Glory 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.

Call to Sermon

Sermon

May the 4th Be with You

Rev. Peter Johnston

***Sermon Hymn**

Amazing Grace

Insert

Prayer cards will be collected during the singing of the sermon 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. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Call to Prayer

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Pastoral Prayer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Communion Hymn**

Come, Risen Lord

#286 Red Hymnal

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God.

Minister: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection and for the calling forth of your church for its mission. Therefore, with angels and archangels, we praise your Holy Name by saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Closing Hymn**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

#199 Red Hymnal

***Benediction**

Postlude



Serving in the House of the Lord

The flowers are given by Alan and Janet Cook in memory of loved ones.

The Deacon of the month is Bob Meader.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Jessie Berry.

AMAZING GRACE

F C7 Dm Bb F

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

C7 F

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace that brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

Bb F Dm F C7 F

now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Our Prayer List

Peace in Israel and Ukraine
Peace in our nation

Federal workers who have been laid off,
including Mary Dunn's son

Kilmar Abrego Garcia

Those with Covid

The family of Christine Nelson's sister
Andrea, who passed on Easter

The family of Betty MacDonald, who passed
March 29

The family of Brenda Cuneo, sister of Rev.
Peter, who passed March 31

The family of Paul Finch, whose wife's aunt
passed

Ava Sigsby, recovering from appendectomy

Jane, friend of Patti MacLennan, on chemo

Charlie Smith, nephew of the Vaughns,
recovering from open heart surgery

Jessie Berry's sister-in-law, surgery

Dawn, Ken Cheo's friend, cancer surgery

Ronald Patt, recovering from triple bypass

Stephanie Zawalich, Deb's sister-in-law,
recovering at home from brain surgery

Phyllis Settele, mother of Amy Kelly, on hos-
pice

Ericka Penney, on new treatment

We Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Lynn White, on hospice at home

Judith Patt, aunt of Steve Patt, on hospice

Cynthia Ness in hospice care at home

Laura Delaplain's sister Cathy, with multiple
myeloma

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

Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione

The 300th Anniversary of the Town of Hanover (2027) and of the First Congregational Church of Hanover

will be upon us before we know it. In the context of community outreach, the Diaconate has discussed several ideas on the shape of this birthday celebration and realized that it is time to enlist ideas of all members of the congregation in this discussion.

Please contact Diaconate members if you wish to be involved in this discussion.





May 4

One Great Hour of Sharing

OGHS is a special mission offering, which supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. In On May 4 there will be special envelopes in the bulletins. We ask you to prayerfully consider a gift so that our local church can help people in need around the world.



**Happy
Coffee
Hour**

Even if you are not a secret barista, you can brew a decent cup of coffee, right? Lend your talent in this area to making coffee hour a tasty and congenial time.

New Members Class

Rev. Peter and Patti MacLennan will be holding a series of new covenant member classes. Please speak to one of them if you would like to participate.



Mother's Day Craft Night

The CE Committee would like to invite all church members to our Mother's Day Craft event! Mark your calendars for Friday night, **May 9th at 6:00 PM** in Riley Hall. Bring your children, bring your grandchildren, nieces or nephews! Enjoy a special dessert on a Friday night and make your own yummy sundae followed by creating a Mother's Day craft for your mom, grandmother, aunt, or special person in your life. This FREE event is open to the community, so spread the exciting news to all you know!



Minister's Tea Wednesday May 14 at 3 pm

You are invited to tea with Rev. Peter Johnston on Wednesday, May 14 The Tea takes place in the vestry (under the sanctuary) from 3:00-4:30 p.m. This is a time when members of the church can sit and enjoy delicious treats with good company.



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 and hymnals 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 down-



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