

Religion cannot remain on the level of ideas alone. Religion must be an expression. It must be an incarnation in the real world of an ideal that is of supreme import to the individual of belief. Religion not only has to be worth living for, it has to be worth living. Faith on a theoretical level is a fossilized faith if it only remains on that level.

—Harry James Cargas, *Encountering Myself*



We Gather to Praise God

** indicates those who are able may stand*



WELCOME AND SHARING NEWS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Lord Christ, the Only Son of God*

J. S. Bach



* CALL TO WORSHIP *responsively*

Glen E. Rainsley, *adapted*

Leader: Through every age and in every place,
the Christ in whose name we gather
calls disciples with a simple invitation, words of challenge:



People: “Come, follow me.”

Leader: And where is it that we go with Christ?

**People: Christ leads us among enemies and strangers,
causing us to regard all persons as potential friends.**

Leader: Christ leads us into uncharted places of spiritual wilderness
where the Word and will of God
are the only reliable guides.

**People: Christ leads us to lose ourselves just so we might be
found, just so grace might become real.**

Leader: And Christ leads us toward the apparent dead-end
of a cross to reveal a highway to new life.

**People: We gather to worship the Christ who leads. May we
gain the wisdom and courage to follow. Welcome!**

* OPENING HYMN #323 *Wonderful Words of Life*



* GREETING ONE ANOTHER *please stand and greet those around you!*

* RESPONSE *sung by everyone* (Tune #469)

Jim Strathdee

“I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!”

**If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**



OPENING PRAYER *seated in unison*

Glen E. Rainsley, *adapted*

**Loving God, we acknowledge to you our need for spiritual
order and support. Hear our prayer.**

**We confess to discouragement at the scattering about of
beloved friends and families, at the fragmentation we sense
within our world. Connect us with one another, we pray.**



**We confess to discomfort at the clutter of trends and values
our culture displays, at the lack of insight and integrity within its
systems. Clear our hearts and minds, we pray.**

**We confess to distress at the disarray we find when we assess
our hopes and intentions, at the mixed messages and multiple
allegiances we allow to govern our lives. Align our wills with
yours, we pray.**

**Grant us an acceptance of your guidance, a commitment to
heed the direction you offer. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

PRAYER OF JESUS (using “sins”)

We Listen for God’s Word



ANTHEM

All Beautiful the March of Days

arr. G. Bozema

PSALM 46 (Hymnal p. 742)



CHILDREN’S TIME

“The Still Point”



* HYMN #354

Seek Ye First

Children depart for classes during the singing of this hymn.



SERVICE OF PRAYER

SHARING PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE

GOSPEL LESSON

John 8:12-18, 31-36

p. 75'

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 17:22-31

p. 78:

SERMON/SHARING “Comparing Creeds, Discerning Truth”

While each creed is read, please underline any part that either you can appreciate/agree with, or any part that troubles you or you disagree with. We will have a few moments to ponder our underlinings before you are invited to share anything you care to about your underlinings or discoveries.

We Respond to God's Word

THE OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY #47 (*note original rhythm*) Thomas Ken (1674)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION *by the pastor*

* CLOSING HYMN (see insert) *Christ is the World's True Light*

* BENEDICTION *by the pastor*

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #431 *sung together while holding hands*

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
Here my tender comfort stilled you;
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

* ORGAN POSTLUDE

We Depart to Serve God

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments
hosted by the Diaconate*



Season of Light

All are Welcome!

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke
United Church of Christ

January 17, 2010

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke, N.H.
United Church of Christ

Ministers: All the People!

Pastor: Rev. Jim Howard, D.Min.

Organist: George Bozeman

Secretary: Nancy Jackson

Office hours: Monday-Friday 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Office: 603-485-9639

Pastor's home: 603-210-2368

Pastor: pastor@pembrokechurch.org

Secretary: secretary@pembrokechurch.org

Website: www.pembrokechurch.org

301 Pembroke Street

Pembroke, NH 03275

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 17	10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School
Mon., Jan. 18	6pm Girl Scouts – PH & DN 6:30pm Christian Ed. Comm.
Tues., Jan. 19	6pm Cub Scouts - DN 7pm Trustees
Wed., Jan. 20	6pm Cub Scouts – DN 6pm BSA – PH Deadline to submit <i>Messenger</i> items
Thurs., Jan. 21	6pm “AA” Group – MR 6pm Cub Scouts – PH 6:30pm Deacons
Sun., Jan. 24	9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 10:20am Sunday School
Mon., Jan. 25	6pm Girl Scouts – PH & DN
Tues., Jan. 26	6pm Girl Scouts – PH & DN 6pm Cub Scouts - DN
Wed., Jan. 27	6pm BSA- PH 6pm Cub Scouts – YR
Thurs., Jan. 28	6pm “AA” Group – MR 6pm Cub Scouts – YR

CREDITS: Portions of today's liturgy were adapted and reprinted with permission from *Hear Our Prayer: Resources for Church and Home* by Glen E. Rainsley. Copyright © 1996 United Church Press.

UNITY'S BASIC TEACHINGS

We encourage you to explore and apply Unity teachings based on your own spiritual understanding. We believe this spiritual understanding is enhanced through reflective prayer and meditation.

The five basic ideas that make up the Unity belief system are: 1) God is the source and creator of all. There is no other enduring power. God is good and present everywhere. 2) We are spiritual beings, created in God's image. The spirit of God lives within each person; therefore, all people are inherently good. 3) We create our life experiences through our way of thinking. 4) There is power in affirmative prayer, which we believe increases our connection to God. 5) Knowledge of these spiritual principles is not enough. We must live them.

A NEW CREED

United Church of Canada

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

YOUNG LIFE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Article I

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being given by divine inspiration, are the Word of God, the final and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Article II

In the Scriptures, God reveals Himself as the living and true God, Creator of all things. Perfect in love and righteous in all His ways, this one God exists eternally as a Trinity of persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Article III

God made man and woman in His image that He might have fellowship with us. Being estranged from God by our disobedience, we are, as sinful people, incapable of a right relationship to God apart from divine grace.

Article IV

The only Mediator between God and all human beings is Jesus Christ our Lord, God's eternal Son, who as man fully shared and fulfilled our humanity in a life of perfect obedience.

Article V

By His death in our place, Jesus revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having risen bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, He rules as Lord over all and intercedes for us as our Great High Priest.

Article VI

The Holy Spirit, through the proclamation of the Gospel, renews our hearts, persuading us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit we are led to trust in divine mercy, whereby we are forgiven all our sins, justified by faith through the merit of Christ our Savior, adopted into God's family as His children and enabled so to live in the world that all people may see our good works and the Gospel of grace at work in our lives and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Article VII

God, by His Word and Spirit, calls us as sinful people into the fellowship of Christ's body. Thus He creates the one holy, catholic and apostolic church, united in the bonds of love, endowed with the gifts of the Spirit and summoned by Christ to preach the Gospel and to administer the sacraments, to carry on the ministry of reconciliation, to relieve human need and to strive for social justice.

Article VIII

God's redemptive purpose will be consummated by the return of Christ to raise the dead, judge all people and establish His glorious kingdom. Those who are apart from Christ shall be eternally separated from God's presence, but the redeemed shall live and reign with Him forever.

INTERVARSITY DOCTRINAL BASIS

We believe in:

The only true God, the almighty Creator of all things,
existing eternally in three persons
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit full of love and glory.

The unique divine inspiration,
entire trustworthiness
and authority of the Bible.

The value and dignity of all people:
created in God's image to live in love and holiness,
but alienated from God and each other because of our sin and guilt,
and justly subject to God's wrath.

Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine,
who lived as a perfect example,
who assumed the judgment due sinners by dying in our place,
and who was bodily raised from the dead and ascended as Savior and
Lord.

Justification by God's grace to all who repent
and put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

The indwelling presence and transforming power of the Holy Spirit,
who gives to all believers a new life and a new calling to obedient
service.

The unity of all believers in Jesus Christ,
manifest in worshiping and witnessing churches
making disciples throughout the world.

The victorious reign and future personal return of Jesus Christ,
who will judge all people with justice and mercy,
giving over the unrepentant to eternal condemnation
but receiving the redeemed into eternal life.

To God be glory forever.

KANSAS CITY STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1913

Faith

We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, goodness, and love,
and in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior,
who for us and for our salvation lived and died and rose again
and liveth evermore,
and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ
and revealeth them to us,
renewing, comforting, and inspiring the souls of men.

We are united in striving to know the will of God
as taught in the Holy Scriptures,
and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord,
made known or to be made known to us.

We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ
to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind,
exalting the worship of the one true God,
and laboring for the progress of knowledge,
the promotion of justice, the reign of peace,
and the realization of human brotherhood.

Depending, as did our fathers, upon the continued guidance
of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth,
we work and pray for the transformation of the world
into the Kingdom of God,
and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness,
and the life everlasting.

Polity

We believe in the freedom and responsibility
of the individual soul, and the right of private judgment.

We hold to the autonomy of the local church
and its independence of all ecclesiastical control.

We cherish the fellowship of the churches,
united in district, state, and national bodies,
for counsel and cooperation in matters of common concern.

The Wider Fellowship

While affirming the liberty of our churches,
and the validity of our ministry,
we hold to the unity and catholicity of the Church of Christ,
and will unite with all its branches in hearty cooperation;
and will earnestly seek, so far as in us lies,
that the prayer of our Lord for his disciples may be answered,
that they all may be one.