

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Rev. Dr. Jim Howard, Worship Leader  
Online Worship  
February 6, 2022

**PRELUDE** “Old Rugged Cross” – arr. James Michael Stevens Adam Peithmann

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Barbara Papagian

**INTROIT # 554** “You Are My Hiding Place”

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Who knows what you might hear in worship today?

**All: God knows.**

One: It could be the beauty of a favorite hymn, or a passage of scripture.

**All: It could be the sound of friends gathering for worship.**

One: Or even the silence between all the sounds.

As we worship, let’s listen for the movement of the Spirit inviting us to hear, and see, and feel  
God’s message in our midst.

**All: Let’s Worship!**

### OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Love, love, love....

**O God, gather us, mark us, shape us in your love. Not our definition of love, O God, but yours.  
Not our feelings of love that rise and fall, but wrap us in your love, your forgiveness, your  
erased memory of our wrongs. Then loosen our grip on ourselves. Extend us out to love in your  
name. Call us to true worship this day, in the covenant of our love. Amen.**

**HYMN # 288** “O God of Vision”

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### TIME OF SILENCE

#### OUR LORD’S PRAYER

**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 and ever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE # 305** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Liz Verity

#### Psalm 103:1-5, 8

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Romans 5:6-11, 20-21**

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**PASTOR’S MESSAGE**

“This is THE TIME for MERCY”

Rev. Dr. Jim Howard

**HYMN # 73**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

**CLOSING WORDS**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Allegro Maestoso e Vivace” – Felix Mendelssohn

**Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.**

**Rev. Dr. Jim Howard** (aka Nelson Howard, III), a native of Wellesley, MA, retired in 2015 from serving the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Pembroke, NH. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Claremont School of Theology. He served at four UCC churches in southern California, then churches in Jaffrey and East Derry, NH; Kittery and Portland, ME; and Marshfield, MA. Since retirement, he has sung in the choir and taught classes at his now home church, First Congregational UCC of Hopkinton, NH. He has also led classes at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Concord, NH. In addition, he is a Marian Missionary of Divine Mercy, an Emissary for Augustine Institute, and continues to serve on A New Thing Task Force Mission Group and Clergy Convocation committee of the NH Conference UCC, is chaplain and newsletter editor for the NH Chapter American Guild of Organists, and is a mentor in the Thresholds decision making program at Hillsboro County Dept. of Corrections.

**Introit Hymn no. 554**

**“You Are My Hiding Place”**

You are my hiding place, you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you. I will trust in you; let the weak say, “I am strong in the strength of my God.”

**Opening Hymn no. 288**

**“O God of Vision”**

1. O God of vision far greater than all human scheming, gather us now in your presence, refreshing, redeeming. Show us a new life in your breathtaking view, lovely beyond all our dreaming.
2. Pour out your Spirit on all now assembled before you. May our diversity here be a means to adore you. Women and men, young, old, and youthful again, make us as one, we implore you.
3. Grant to us insight, O God, for this time of decision. May we dream challenging dreams of both depth and precision. Speak through the dark. Dispel by lightning’s bright spark whatever clouds dim our vision.
4. Break the sun’s rays into color, a rainbow around us. Storm clouds, though real and near, are not enough to confound us. Arched in the sky, beauty and promise are high, giving us hope to astound us.
5. Grateful, we come now by Christ’s invitation clear spoken. We seek the nourishment found in fruit crushed and bread broken. Christ for us all! Come, let us answer the call, offering our loves as the token.

**Prayer Response Hymn no. 305 “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”**

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

**Closing Hymn no. 73**

**“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

1. There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea; there’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.
2. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good! There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
3. For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
4. If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God’s word; and our lives would be illuminated by the presence of our Lord.