

A READING OF OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

The faith community of First Congregational Church, Manchester NH reaffirms our shared covenant and beliefs that the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to love one another and to extend welcome to all people. We affirm that each individual is a child of God and that all are worthy of God's love and grace.

As witness to these beliefs and as covenant members of Christ's church, we proclaim and celebrate God's love for people of all ages, all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all other diverse attributes that are woven into the fabric of humankind.

We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the complete life and ministry of our church. With God's grace, we resolve to be an open, inclusive, affirming, and accessible community of faith. We invite all to participate and share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our Christian community.

Approved by the Congregation on Sunday, November 19, 2017

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Here is a Man

Words and music by Jeffrey B. Frye

Written in loving memory and honor of my father, Berton R. Frye

Here is a man, I knew him well, and he was a good one.
Life wasn't easy, but as they say, he sure had a good run.
He took the hard road, he was undaunted, he gave all and then some.
Yes, he was a good man, a mighty good man, and he's coming home, oh,
Lord, he's coming home.

He had his demons, the truth to tell, but everyone does.
A couple bad choices, along the way, but that's how life goes.
Hard to say sorry, dear, I am sorry, maybe, I could be wrong.
Yes, he was a fine man, a mighty fine man, Lord bring him along, oh,
Lord, bring him along.

If I had the luck, or grace of God, or maybe my misfortune,
I might live to be an old, old, man; hopefully, a wise one.
I could never do a quarter of the things this man has done,
I am so glad he was my father; I was lucky to be his son,
I am so proud he was my father, and I was honored to be his son,
Oh, oh, Lord, he's coming home.

He was a dreamer, we knew it well, the stories he could tell.
Bit of schemer, some would say, the big deals he would sell.
He showed his mama – had to show mama – all that he had become.
Yes, he was a real good man, a mighty fine man, and he's coming home, oh,
He was a real fine man, a mighty good man, and he's coming home, oh,
Lord, bring him home.

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