

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

January 26, 2025 10:00 AM
Third Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE Grave and Adagio from Organ Sonata no. 2 Adam Peithmann
– Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 95 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

People: We gather to hear God's liberating word of love.

Leader: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

People: May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.

Leader: May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

All: And may it be enacted in our lives!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

Gracious God, anoint us anew with your Holy Spirit of Love. By it, form our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of your good news. Grant us a renewed passion for your vision of a world where none are poor and where every weight is lifted. Cultivate your courageous compassion in us to move toward any who have been marginalized or run over by the world. Yes, bless and strengthen us to bless and strengthen others. We pray this in the name of the one whose life fulfilled Your Holy vision, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *O Rest in the Lord* Michelle Harrington, soloist
– Felix Mendelssohn

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires.
Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him, and fret not thyself because of evil doers.

Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS Response... "Hear Our Prayer"

SILENT MEDITATION

OUR 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.

*HYMN NO. 501 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

Rev. Barbara Papagian

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn No. 46)

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. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We thank you, God, for loving us into the freedom of a generous life. Bless these gifts we bring in response to the blessing you have already given us with the gift of life. Form our lives anew into living offerings, sharing Your love with a grace that frees others. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-21

Michelle Harrington

SERMON "The Freeing of Taco Tuesday, God's Spirit, and You" Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 261 *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

BENEDICTION

Take the Spirit of the Lord with you. Today is the day. Share and speak of God's love. Care for the needy, teach the ways of peace, work for justice, and bring joy and hope to all you know and meet. Go now and may the risen Christ set you free! Amen.

POSTLUDE Allegro Maestoso from Organ Sonata no. 2 – Felix Mendelssohn

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-21 (New International Version)

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Isaiah 61:1-2 (New International Version)

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

² He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come.

First Congregational Church



January 26, 2025

Manchester, New Hampshire

United Church of Christ

508 Union Street · Manchester, NH · 603-625-5093

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

You are welcome here! An Open & Affirming Congregation