

**First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship**

January 19, 2025 10:00 AM
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE *Gospel Fancy* – arr. H. Sexton Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

*OPENING HYMN NO. 614 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Christopher Stevens

Leader: How can we keep still this day?

People: There is joy in this place!

Leader: God's steadfast love extends to everyone.

People: God reaches out to us all in forgiveness and compassion.

Leader: Thanks to God for all of the wonderful blessings we have received.

All: Let us celebrate God's joyful love for and with us! Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Barbara Papagian

God of abundant and steadfast love, we gather to worship and praise you. There is no way we can measure the immensity of God's love because it is as vast as the immeasurable Heaven. God's love is as deep as the deepest sea. How precious is God's Love for us. All loving and all merciful God, help us today to accept the searching light of God's love into our lives.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Draw the Circle Wide* – Mark A. Miller Chancel Choir,
Bridget Thornton-Smith, soloist & Leo LeBlanc, percussionist

Draw the circle wide. No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side. Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone, standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Christopher Stevens

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. 628 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

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)

Generous God, we ask that you bless these gifts that we give today. May they become a source of joy, hope, and abundance for those in need reflecting the miracle of love in our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 36:5-10 Justin May

SERMON *Remember the Past – Look to the Future* Rev. Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 631 *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "We Shall Overcome" arr. Carl Haywood

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., all musical selections for today's service are from black composers and organists.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 36:5-10

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

⁹For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

¹⁰O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

First Congregational Church



January 19, 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