

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

January 12, 2025 10:00 AM
First Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE *Adagio – C. M. Widor* Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 618 *How Firm a Foundation*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: Come, beloved of God, to remember who you are and whose you are.

People: We are precious and honored in God’s sight.

Leader: Yes, here and now, God’s heaven of love is being poured out anew.

People: May this motion of the Holy One, shape our hearts and minds.

Leader: May it brighten the Epiphany light in us and the whole creation.

All: And may it shape our words and work into good news for the world!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

Holy One, awaken us again to Your outpouring Spirit of Love. Through this generous gift, stretch our souls wide and form us into channels of your healing grace. Gift us with an ability to recognize You in each other, all imprinted with Your beloved blessing. Clarify our intentions, purify our actions, fill our words with grace and our hearts with hope. Immerse our thinking, our praying, our hoping, our everything in You. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Guide My Feet, Lord – arr. John Carter* Chancel Choir

Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race, ‘cause I don’t want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand, Lord...

Stand by me, Lord...

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. 546 *Amazing Grace!*

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)

O Gracious God, we thank you for the invitation to grow through giving, made possible by Your outpouring spirit. May these gifts we bring be used to form ever-new blessings in this congregation and around the world. And may our lives be the instruments of love and joy you desire. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4a, 5a Rev. Barbara Papagian

SERMON “When You Are Going Through Some Things, God is With You”
Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 537 *My Hope Is Built*

BENEDICTION

Go now in that faith, knowing that your salvation is secure. Carry with you the life and light that Christ has brought into your heart. Proclaim to your world that redemption is for all. May the Spirit lead you, guide you and continually remind you of these truths. Amen.

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in G minor (“Little”) – J. S. Bach

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4a, 5a (New International Version)

¹ But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;...

⁴ Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you...

⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you;...

Joel 2:25 (New King James Version)

²⁵ “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust,
My great army which I sent among you.

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**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