

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

May 13, 2018 10:00 AM

Mother's Day

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PRELUDE Selections from Aubrie Dionne, Flute Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Fairest Lord, Jesus* Chancel Choir

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down; thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: See what love has been given to us, that we should be called children of God.

**People: By this we know love, that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, and lived and died, that God's love might be made plain to us.**

Leader: Therefore, beloved, let us not love in word or in speech but in deed and in truth.

**People: Because we love one another, we know that we have passed from death into life.**

**All: This is the victory that overcomes the world, through Jesus our risen Christ.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 10 *Bring Many Names*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

**Loving God, we thank you for the homes in which we were nurtured, and for the love that our mothers and fathers had for us. We thank you also for the new birth that Christ offers us through your love, and for the larger family we find in the church and among the people of the world. Through the power of your Spirit, make us alive to love and serve you in our families, our church, and our world; make us your true children of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING: Proverbs 1:8-9 (Common English Bible) Sylvie York

*Listen, my [child], to your father's instruction; don't neglect your mother's teaching; for they are a graceful wreath on your head, and beads for your neck.*

MESSAGE: Because She Loves You

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth – arr. Peithmann*

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of ev'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace. Mothering spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS Barbara Papagian

LEADER: God, in your mercy

**PEOPLE: Hear our prayer**

SILENT MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

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. Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

In this time of quiet rev'ence, God, fills us now with everlasting peace, and may each and ev'ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.

\*HYMN NO. 635 *Faith of our Fathers*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY Chalice Hymnal 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)**

**Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      Genesis 18:1-15                      Pam Pleas

SERMON                                      She Who Laughs Last                      Rev. Kevin Pleas

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 14              *Womb of Life, and Source of Being*

**BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE              *Allegro con brio from Sonata no. 4 – Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy*

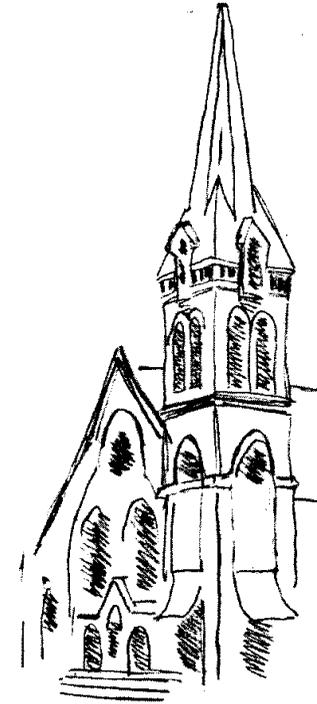
\*You are invited to stand if you wish

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 18:1-15 (New Revised Standard Version)

PEW BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT PAGE 13

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My Lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So, they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

# First Congregational Church



May 13, 2018

**Manchester, New Hampshire**

**United Church of Christ**

508 Union Street, Manchester, NH \* 603-625-5093

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM (9:30 Summer)

*You are welcome here!*

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*