

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

July 8, 2018 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE *Andante* – Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: God, you are my God, I am seeking you. My soul is thirsting for you, my flesh is longing for you as a land parched, weary and waterless;

PEOPLE: **I long to gaze on you in the Sanctuary, and to see your power and glory.**

ALL: **Come, let us worship the Living God!**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we open our hearts to hear your voice through word, song, and community. Transform our hearts from fear to courage, from certainty, in spiritual matters, to trust, and from passivity to Christian action. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Call* – Ralph Vaughan Williams Lauren Peithmann

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath: Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death. Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast: Such a Feast as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move: Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.

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.

*HYMN NO. 576 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *How Great Thou Art* – Stuart K. Hine Lauren Peithmann

*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)

We pray together, grateful that you have called us to labor in your kingdom. May these gifts extend our welcome, offer healing and reach out in gentleness to bring the peace and joy of God to the world. We especially thank you that you have written our names in heaven. Amen.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE Psalm 139 Chalice Hymnal No. 765

SCRIPTURE LESSON Second Corinthians 12:2-10 Peter Perich

SERMON Sufficient Grace Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 546 *Amazing Grace!*

BENEDICTION

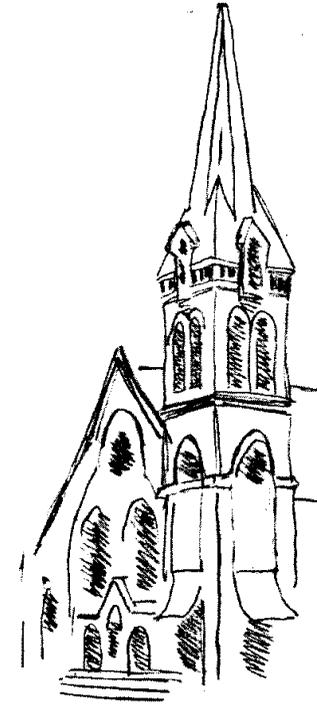
POSTLUDE *Allegro* – F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy

*You are invited to stand if you wish

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Corinthians 12:2-10 (New Revised Standard Version)
New Testament page 171 in RSV Pew Bibles

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

First Congregational Church



July 8, 2018

Manchester, New Hampshire

United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM (Summer)

You are welcome here!

An Open & Affirming Congregation