

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

July 22, 2018 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

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PRELUDE *Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Happy are those whose hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth.

PEOPLE: **For God keeps faith forever!**

LEADER: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.

PEOPLE: **God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.**

LEADER: God lifts up those who are bowed down.

PEOPLE: **God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.**

LEADER: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help—

PEOPLE: **for God keeps faith forever!**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 86 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Most Gracious God, we greet you once again in this sacred space. We have come because we need to be reminded of your love and your expectations for our living. We are like the vine you planted, watered and protected. We know in our hearts that we need, want and desire your presence in our lives. So we come in prayer and listen for your Word to speak to our hearts and reveal again your desires for us. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Michelle Harrington and Carol Soucy

My shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his name. In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream. He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake his ways. He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace. When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay. One word of thy supporting breath drives

all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread. My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days. O may thy house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come. No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

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. 586 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *God so Loved the World* – John Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that who so believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

\*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)

**Bless, O God, these our gifts, and bless our desire to participate with you in the building of your realm among us. Accept these gifts as a sign of our love for you and for our neighbors. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 146

Chalice Hymnal No. 766

SCRIPTURE LESSON                      Mark 6:30-34, 53-56                      Linda Noble

SERMON                                      That's Why I'm Here                      Rev. Kevin Pleas

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 506              *Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill*  
(Congregation sings Refrain; Michelle and Carol sing Stanzas)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE              *Allegro moderato e serioso from Sonata 1* – Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

\*You are invited to stand if you wish

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 (Common English Bible)  
New Testament page 38 in RSV Pew Bibles

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. Many people were coming and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place. Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

When Jesus and his disciples had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret, anchored the boat, and came ashore. People immediately recognized Jesus and ran around that whole region bringing sick people on their mats to wherever they heard he was. Wherever he went—villages, cities, or farming communities—they would place the sick in the marketplaces and beg him to allow them to touch even the hem of his clothing. Everyone who touched him was healed.

# First Congregational Church



July 22, 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*