

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

August 26, 2018 9:30 AM
Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE Meditation on *Coronation* 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)

Our gracious God, like a loving parent you nurture and encourage and challenge us to grow in grace. Grant that by sensing your Spirit's presence in our midst, we may be enabled to mature in our commitment to you. Forgive our failures and show us once again our possibilities. Prepare us to be servants of your will and agents of your love in all the world. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Sing It Now* Bob Ward
By Joseph Habedank/Michael Farren/Tony Wood

Well I have sung "Amazing Grace" since I was just a child. And I've joined in on "It Is Well" at least a thousand times. And singing "Jesus Loves Me" is a precious memory. I remember when "Just As I Am" first brought me to my knees. Oh, but here I am surrounded by some things I can't explain. But the truth is still the truth in the moments my heart breaks.

Refrain: And if I could sing it then, I can sing it now, 'Cause who He was is how He is beyond the shadow of a doubt. I might be standing in the darkness, with trouble all around. But if I could sing it then, I can still sing it now.

Oh, it's not always easy to join those melodies. But how sweetly they remind me of what I still believe. A voice that's raised in times like these may be the truest praise 'Cause I've never been forsaken and that will never change. (Refrain)

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" "A mighty fortress is our God" "Standing on the Promises"
"Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine" (Refrain)... How sweet the sound that saved a wretch just like me.

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. 527 *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Softly and Tenderly* – Will L. Thompson Bob Ward
(Text from hymn no. 340)

*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)

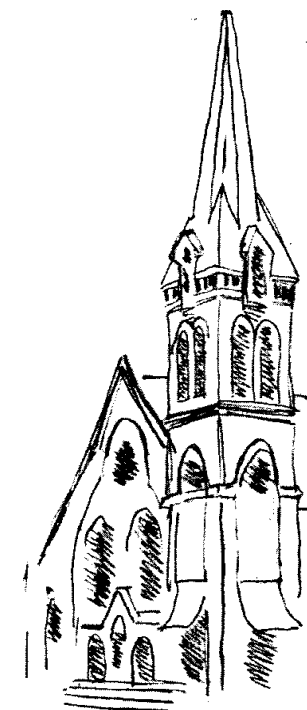
Lord, you are the bread of heaven, giving life to the world. You fill our emptiness with your goodness. You come to our weakness with your strength. Take and use these gifts to bring in a rich harvest of your heavenly food and life-giving refreshment. Amen.

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| RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE | <i>Psalm 84</i> | Chalice Hymnal No. 745 |
| SCRIPTURE LESSON | John 21:1-17 | Pamela Priebis |
| SERMON: | Feed My Sheep | Rev. Kevin Pleas |
| *CLOSING HYMN NO. 452 | <i>Here I Am, Lord</i> | |
| BENEDICTION | | |
| POSTLUDE | <i>Prelude in C BWV 545 – J. S. Bach</i> | |
| | *You are invited to stand if you wish. | |

SCRIPTURE READING: John 21:1-17 (New Revised Standard Version)
New Testament page 108 in RSV Pew Bibles

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

First Congregational Church



August 26, 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