

First Congregational Church

Our Church in Worship

September 2, 2018 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

Labor Day Sunday

PRELUDE *Chorale* – Dieterich Buxtehude Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has worked wonders, whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.

PEOPLE: **The Lord has made known salvation; has shown justice to the nations; has remembered truth and love for the house of Israel.**

LEADER: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

PEOPLE: **Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing out your joy.**

LEADER: Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.

PEOPLE: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 20 *I'll Praise My Maker*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body, gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together. Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. Well may your church bring forth your will and your reign. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Summons* – Scottish Meloday/arr. John Bell Rev. Kevin Pleas

“Will I come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in 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. 575 *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *As the Deer* – Martin Nystrom Rev. Kevin Pleas

As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after thee. You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship thee.

Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship thee.

You’re my friend and you are my brother even though you are a King. I love you more than any other, so much more than anything. (Refrain)

I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy. You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye. (Refrain)

***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)**

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given, and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all peoples, and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 31

Chalice Hymnal No. 738

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 15 and James 1:19-27

Sandy Salinas

SERMON:

Finding Delight in Action

Rev. Kevin Pleas

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 612**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

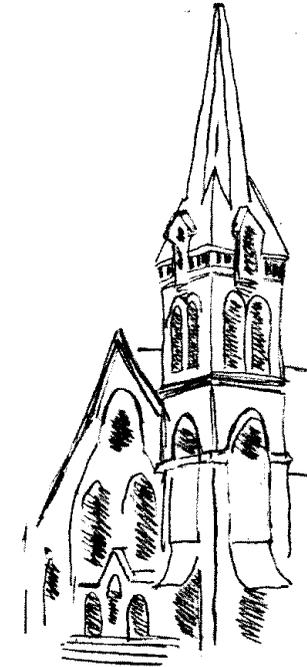
BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in d minor – D. Buxtehude

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

First Congregational Church



September 2, 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