

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 23, 2018 10:00 AM

Season of Pentecost

Barbara Papagian Leads

PRELUDE *Choral* – Johann Sebastian Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *How Very Good and Pleasant* – Barbara Boertje Chancel Choir
How very good and pleasant when we live in unity. It is like precious oil, like fresh morning dew. We gather here together with our hearts and voices raised to God who's the center of our unity and praise.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Happy are those who follow the way of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **God's ways are just and merciful.**

LEADER: Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith

PEOPLE: **In all that they do, they prosper**

LEADER: Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

PEOPLE: **Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice**

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

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Most merciful God of love and strength, may our worship of you be strong through our hymns, our prayers, and the joining of our lives in fellowship. Enfold us in your love, and empower our worship that your name might be glorified in this place and in our lives. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

Special Guest: Bill Jones

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 40:31 (CEB) Esme York

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles: they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

MESSAGE: The Young Athlete's Program

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Be Thou My Vision* – arr. Alice Parker Chancel Choir

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; Thou my great father, I thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High king of heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heav'ns joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart or my own heart whatever befall. Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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, fill us now with everlasting peace, and may each with ev'ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.

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

OUR MORNING OFFERING

***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, let our congregation be a witness to you: Immersed in scripture, constant in prayer, joyful in worship, generous in giving; a loving supportive community reaching out to those in need. Accept these gifts we offer in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:30-37

Janie Shaklee

SERMON:

From Last to First

Barbara Papagian

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 461** *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Major – J. S. Bach

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING MARK 9:30-37 (NRSV)

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

First Congregational Church



September 23, 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