

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 30, 2018 10:00 AM

Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE *Andante Cantabile* – Charles Marie Widor Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
PEOPLE: For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.
LEADER: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?
PEOPLE: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 606 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

O Lord, our God, you are always more ready to give your good gifts to us than we are to seek them, and you are willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find; so to ask that we may joyfully receive; so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

LEADER: Introduction

PEOPLE: (Unison)

Loving God, allow your blessing to rest upon these quilts, and upon all those who have participated in the creation of them. In giving them out as gifts of our love, may those who receive them know that they are cradled in hope, held in joy, and graced with peace. Remind them that they are indeed loved and never forgotten. Let them know that, with these quilts, they are covered in your divine love and healing power -

through prayer, comfort and compassion. We ask your blessing on all who are lonely, sick and suffering. In the name of Jesus Christ, the gentle healer. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:4-8 (Common English Bible) Meara Horan

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MESSAGE: The Cousin of Jesus

CLOSING PRAYER

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

CHORAL ANTHEM *The Gift of Love* – arr. Hal Hopson Chancel Choir

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gifts to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide ev'ry deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

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

HYMN NO. 527

More Love to Thee, O Christ

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*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)

**God, our Creator, with these gifts we offer you our lives to do your work in the world.
Take our bodies and our minds, our work and our leisure, our relationships with other
people, our friendships and our family life, our dreams and our doubts, our faith and
our plans for the future. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we bring them all to
you. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Second Corinthians 9:6-8

Peter Perich

SERMON:

God's Work, Our Hands

Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 714

For the Fruit of All Creation

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in f – C. M. Widor

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Corinthians 9:6-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bible: New Testament page 169

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

First Congregational Church



September 30, 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