

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

October 28, 2018 10:00 AM

New Member Sunday

PRELUDE Prelude on *Jesus, Lover of my Soul* – Healey Willan Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Lead Me, Lord* – Samuel S. Wesley Chancel Choir

Lead me, Lord, in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou,
Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Come, let us worship Almighty God.

PEOPLE: **Let us lift up our songs, our prayers, our praises.**

LEADER: Come, let us honor Christ Jesus.

PEOPLE: **Let us love Christ with our hearts, our minds, our spirits.**

LEADER: Come, let us be filled with the Spirit of the Living God.

PEOPLE: **Breathe in us, Breath of God. Alleluia.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 27 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Gracious God, who has the power to create the whirlwind and the wisdom to speak to us in the still, small voice, we ask that you bring your love to us today. We are in need of the strength of your spirit. We live in the hope of your call. We depend on you; there is no other who gives us such hope and life. Be with us, care for us, comfort and confront us with your love and grace. Through the power of the Spirit we pray. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Corinthians 9:8 (NRSV) Meara Horan

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.

MESSAGE: What is a Blessing?

CLOSING PRAYER

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

READING OF THE COVENANT

Please see the blue bulletin insert for the Church Covenant

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus our Christ, we gladly welcome you into this community of faith, enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to your care. In the power of God's Spirit, let us mutually encourage each other to trust God, and strengthen one another to serve the world, that Christ's church may in all things stand faithful.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP

PRAYER AND BLESSING

(Children may now leave for Church School)

CHORAL ANTHEM *I Believe* Chancel Choir & Michelle Harrington, soloist

- music by Mark A. Miller/lyrics, anonymous Jewish poem

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God even when God is silent.

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

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia!

*HYMN NO. 490

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

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 of all peoples and all places, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Luke 6:37-42, 11:33-36

Chris Pantazis

SERMON:

But When You Do Judge...

Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 73

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Prelude on "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" – Healey Willan*

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

First Congregational Church



October 28, 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*