

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

November 4, 2018 10:00 AM

Member Recognition Sunday

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PRELUDE *Andante Religioso* – Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather* Chancel Choir  
– Tokuo Yamaguchi/Isao Koizumi

Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand; looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand. As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray: Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way. Grant O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love; help us as we work and pray, send us from above truth and courage, faith and power, needed in our strife: Jesus, Master, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Living God.

PEOPLE: **This is the day when we rejoice in God's act of creation.**

LEADER: This is our Sabbath, when we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

PEOPLE: **We give thanks that once more, God has brought us together, that we might refresh one another.**

ALL: **Peace to all who enter here, peace this day and every day, in the name of Jesus our Christ. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 24 *The God of Abraham Praise*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we have gathered in your presence to sing your praise. Gather up the prayer of each heart into one harmony of worship and service, that we might truly be one body in Christ. Accept the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts, for we are yours in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF OUR LONG TIME MEMBERS  
(PLEASE SEE THE RECOGNITION BULLETIN)

UNISON PRAYER OF CELEBRATION

**Blessed God; you call us all together as people of faith, to serve you, one another and the world in and through our beloved First Congregational Church. We thank you for the love and fellowship we share with one another. Today, we thank you especially for those we celebrate as our Long Time Members. We are deeply grateful for their many years of loyal service, and ask that you continue to bless them for years of service and fellowship to come. May we all know the guiding Spirit of your grace, that our church may continue to be a joyful beacon of light, love and faithfulness to this city. Grant that we, individually and all together, might bear fruit worthy of your divine calling and grace. This we ask in the name of your Son, our Christ. Amen.**

(Children may now join their Sunday School classes)

CHORAL ANTHEM *Be Strong in the Lord* – Tom Fettke Chancel Choir

Be strong in the Lord, and be of good courage; Your defender is he who is always the same. Mount up with wings as the eagle ascending; Vict'ry is sure when you call on his name. Refrain: Be strong in the Lord; And be of good courage for he is your guide. Be strong in the Lord; And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Put on the armour the Lord has provided; Place your defense in his unfailing care. Trust him for he will be with you in battle, Lighting your path to avoid ev'ry snare. (Refrain) Be strong in the Lord and be of good courage; your mighty commander will vanquish the foe. Fear not the battle, for the vict'ry is always his; He will protect you wherever you go. (Refrain)

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. 573

*Purer in Heart, O God*

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)

**Thank you, God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because you have blessed us, we have much to give. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully your own loyal community. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Genesis 12:1-6

Liz Verity

SERMON:

On Not Knowing Where You're Going

Rev. Kevin Pleas

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 432

*O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Allegro con brio* – Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

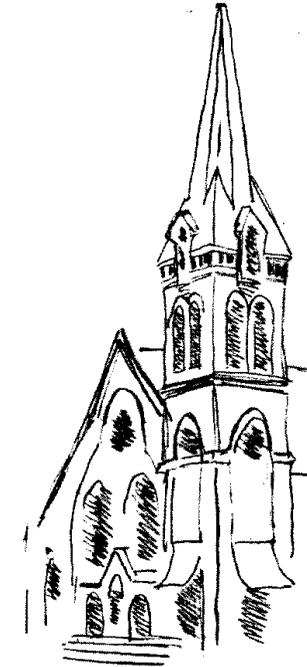
\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 12:1-6 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bible: Old Testament page 9.

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

# First Congregational Church



November 4, 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*