

*First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship*

November 11, 2018 10:00 AM

Veteran's Day Sunday

PRELUDE Concert Variations on the "Star-Spangled Banner" op.23 Adam Peithmann
(Theme, Var 1, and 2) – Dudley Buck

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather* Chancel Choir
(Lyrics from Hymn no. 278, vs. 1 and 4)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of your country's story:

PEOPLE: We give you thanks, O God.

LEADER: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

PEOPLE: We give you thanks, O God.

LEADER: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the worlds common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to others:

PEOPLE: We give you thanks, O God.

LEADER: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

PEOPLE: We give you thanks, O God.

ALL: O almighty and most merciful God, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

A Few Moments of Silence ...

*OPENING HYMN NO. 725 *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of every nation, as we today remember our Veterans, especially those that gave their lives for our sake, let us be stirred to action in their memory. Strengthen us to do all that is possible to promote peace and justice in our world. In the spirit of our Christ, give us the courage and determination to love not only our family members, friends and neighbors, but our enemies as well. Empower us to work for your kingdom in this world, and welcome us by your grace into your kingdom in the next. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 13:31-33 (CEB) Tyler Longval

He told another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough."

MESSAGE: Mustard Seeds and Yeast

CLOSING PRAYER

A MOMENT FOR MISSION

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Please see Blue Bulletin Insert

CHORAL ANTHEM *Soon Ah Will Be Done* – William L. Dawson Chancel Choir

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. 612

Oh Jesus, I Have Promised

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)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us — Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:31-40

Sam Knowles

SERMON:

Doing the Least

Rev. Stephen Cushing

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 461

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Concert Variations on the “Star-Spangled Banner” op. 23 (Var. 3 and 5)

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

First Congregational Church



November 11, 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*