

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

November 25, 2018 10:00 AM

Reign of Christ Sunday

PRELUDE *Allegretto and Andantino* – Hermann Schroeder Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Fairest Lord Jesus* Chancel Choir

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down; thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

PEOPLE: **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

LEADER: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

PEOPLE: **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

LEADER: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

PEOPLE: **O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!**

LEADER: For he is our God,

PEOPLE: **And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 95 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Eternal God, you set Jesus Christ to rule over all things and made us servants in your kingdom. By your Spirit, empower us to love the unloved and to minister to all in need. Then at the last, bring us into your eternal realm, where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy. All this we ask through Jesus

Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Corinthians 9:8 (CEB)

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

CHORAL ANTHEM *Lauda Anima* – arr. Mark Andrews Chancel Choir

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To his feet thy tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing: Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King! Father-like he tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame he knows; In his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows. Angels in the height adore him! Ye behold him face to face; Saints triumphant bow before him! Gathered in from ev'ry race. Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace. 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

Hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

*HYMN NO. 566

Be Still, My Soul

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)**

Ever-giving God, source of all goodness and charity, your ear is always open to our needs. When we cry to you, you are faithful and provide for us. With joy, we bring our thanksgiving. For all your mercies, we return to you from our abundance. All that we give, we dedicate to your glory. All that we keep, we commit to your care, for we are only stewards of your bounty. Bless what we give and what we keep, for all is your creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 18:33-37

Pam Pleas

SERMON:

Belonging to the Truth

Rev. Kevin Pleas

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 65**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Poco vivace – H. Shroeder

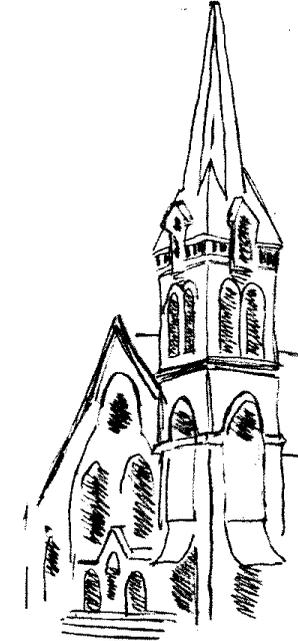
*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 18:33-37 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bible: New Testament page 105

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

First Congregational Church



November 25, 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