

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

July 14, 2019 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE The Calvin Handbell Ringers

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: We are gathered to give witness to the enduring realities of life.

PEOPLE: **We have come to affirm that life is a gift, that the gift is good, and that it comes from God.**

LEADER: We are gathered to renew our hope in the Spirit as we travel life's long journey.

PEOPLE: **We find God in the paths of our present and our past, but we also trust in God's love for our future.**

LEADER: The same Spirit guides us all the way, every day of our lives, and beyond life.

PEOPLE: **We praise God with our whole hearts, and entrust our lives to God's hands.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 22 *All Creatures of Our God and King*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

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.

*HYMN NO. 586 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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)

Most giving and forgiving God, you provide for our every need. You open our lips to offer you praise. You strengthen our hands to respond to Christ's call. With hearts, hands, and voices renewed by your Spirit, we place now before you our commitment to serve. Use us in ways that will benefit others, and accept what we offer as a sign of our faith. Amen.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE Psalm 139 Chalice Hymnal # 765

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:10-17 Barbara Papagian

SERMON Is Perception Reality? Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 439 *God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

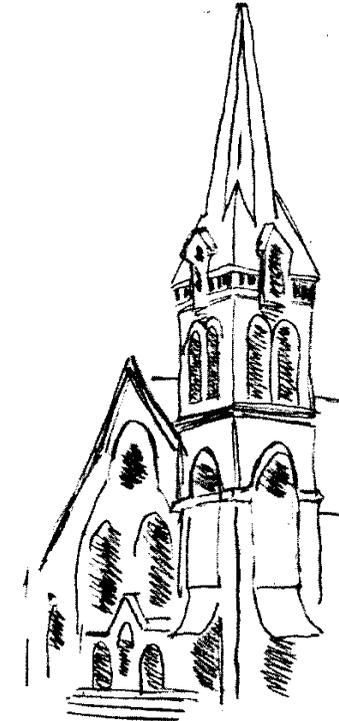
*You are invited to stand if you wish

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 13:10-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

New Testament page 13 in RSV Pew Bibles

Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: ‘You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

First Congregational Church



July 14, 2019

Manchester, New Hampshire

United Church of Christ

508 Union Street, Manchester, NH * 603-625-5093

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM (Summer)

You are welcome here!

An Open & Affirming Congregation