

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

August 4, 2019 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE *Andante Cantabile* – Felix Mendelssohn Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Barbara Papagian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great -

PEOPLE: **God has blessed us with life, with faith and with community.**

LEADER: Let us worship God today, for God is God -

PEOPLE: **God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.**

LEADER: Let us worship God today -

PEOPLE: **Because we are God's people.**

ALL: **Let us worship God.**

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Father, we thank you that you have brought each of us safely to this place. As we gather we remember those who are not with us today... for those who are sick, we ask healing. For those away from us, we ask for your blessing to be on them. We invite Your Holy Spirit to move among us. Come dwell in each of our hearts. Equip us, challenge us, comfort us, teach us, inspire us. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 56 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

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. 602 *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

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, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. We pray that they may help to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our world, today and always, here and everywhere. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 107:1-32

SERMON God is Good; Give Thanks Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 715 *Now Thank We All Our God*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegro* – Felix Mendelssohn

*You are invited to stand if you wish

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 107:1-32

“Give thanks to the LORD because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever!”
That’s what those who are redeemed by the LORD say, the ones God redeemed from the power of their enemies, the ones God gathered from various countries, from east and west, north and south. Some of the redeemed had wandered into the desert, into the wasteland. They couldn’t find their way to a city or town. They were hungry and thirsty; their lives were slipping away.
So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God delivered them from their desperate circumstances. God led them straight to human habitation. Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all people, because God satisfied the one who was parched with thirst, and he filled up the hungry with good things! Some of the redeemed had been sitting in darkness and deep gloom; they were prisoners suffering in chains because they had disobeyed God’s instructions and rejected the Most High’s plans. So God humbled them with hard work. They stumbled, and there was no one to help them.
So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God saved them from their desperate circumstances. God brought them out from the darkness and deep gloom; he shattered their chains. Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all people, because God has shattered bronze doors and split iron bars in two! Some of the redeemed were fools because of their sinful ways. They suffered because of their wickedness. They had absolutely no appetite for food; they had arrived at death’s gates.
So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God saved them from their desperate circumstances. God gave the order and healed them; he rescued them from their pit. Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all people. Let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices and declare what God has done in songs of joy!
Some of the redeemed had gone out on the ocean in ships, making their living on the high seas. They saw what the LORD had made; they saw his wondrous works in the depths of the sea. God spoke and stirred up a storm that brought the waves up high. The waves went as high as the sky; they crashed down to the depths. The sailors’ courage melted at this terrible situation. They staggered and stumbled around like they were drunk. None of their skill was of any help.
So they cried out to the LORD in their distress, and God brought them out safe from their desperate circumstances. God quieted the storm to a whisper; the sea’s waves were hushed. So they rejoiced because the waves had calmed down; then God led them to the harbor they were hoping for. Let them thank the LORD for his faithful love and his wondrous works for all people. Let them exalt God in the congregation of the people and praise God in the assembly of the elders.

First Congregational Church



August 4, 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