

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

August 11, 2019 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

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PRELUDE *Andante Cantabile* – Charles Marie Widor Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Let us sing to the God of Hosts

**People: Who provides for us, and whom we worship in this place.**

Leader: How awesome is our God

**People: Who created from nothing all that is beautiful in this world;**

Leader: Who anticipates our every need;

**People: Who loves us beyond measure.**

**All: O God, our God; give heed to our presence. Hear our voices lifted up to you in praise.**

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

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Faithful God, you draw near to us in our joy and in our grief, in our hope and in our despair. When we are bowed down, you raise us anew. We turn to you now in search of your healing touch. God of compassion and love, move among us this hour. Open our eyes, dispel our fears, and show us the real life you have to offer. We pray this in the name of the Risen One, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Steal Away* – Spiritual Michelle Harrington

Steal away to Jesus... I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord, he calls me. He calls me by the thunder. The trumpet sounds within-a my soul. I ain't got long to stay here.

**A SERVICE OF BAPTISM**

Savannah Jayne Biron

Born April 30, 2019 to Melissa and Jesse Biron

With Godparents, Larry and Nicole Casale

WELCOME AND ADDRESS

PROMISES OF COVENANT

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

ACT OF BAPTISM

QUILT PRESENTATION

WELCOME OF THE CONGREGATION

**We receive Savannah Jayne as a newly baptized person in Christ and welcome her into the family of faith. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in unity of spirit and abundance of life in Christ. We join together with joy to proclaim the gospel of grace, so that, through our words and deeds, God's love might be made known in all corners of the world.**

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

BENEDICTION

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. 112

*Holy Ground*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *O Rest in the Lord* from Elijah – Felix Mendelssohn

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him, for he shall give thee thy hearts desires.

Commit thy way unto him, and trust in him; and fret not thyself because of evildoers.

\*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)

**Gracious God, we give these gifts because you ask us to share. We dedicate this offering and our lives to your service, that the hungry may be fed, the oppressed may receive justice, and the stranger may be welcomed in our midst. We offer this prayer in the name of the bearer of your good news, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE            Psalm 122                            Chalice Hymnal No. 761

SCRIPTURE LESSON                Exodus 3:1-6

SERMON:                                Holy Ground                            Rev. Kevin Pleas

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 452        *Here I Am, Lord*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                              *Finale – Charles Marie Widor*

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 3:1-6 (New Revised Standard Version)

Old Testament page 49 in RSV Pew Bibles

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.' " God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

# First Congregational Church



August 11, 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