

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

August 18, 2019 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

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PRELUDE *Trio in F* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We may be thirsty and parched, like an unwatered garden, so we come into God's presence.

**People: The Divine One is a spring of water!**

Leader: We may be weary from worry and work, so we come into God's presence.

**People: The Holy One offers us Sabbath rest!**

Leader: We may be lost or confused, so we come into God's presence.

**People: The Wise One offers us welcome and guidance!**

Leader: We may be bent over with struggle or pain, so we come into God's presence.

**People: The Healing One empowers us to stand strong!**

Leader: Let us worship then, our Divine, Holy, Wise and Healing God.

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 23 *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**O God of all goodness, you welcome us, forgive us and heal us. You seek us out from places where we have hidden from you. You crown us with steadfast love and mercy. Reveal yourself to us in this moment. Let us know your presence so that we may bless you. Bless you, O God! Bless your holy name! Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *My Heart Ever Faithful* – J. S. Bach Lauren Peithmann, Soloist

My heart ever faithful, sing praises, be joyful, thy Jesus is near! Away with complaining, faith ever maintaining, my Jesus is here.

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. 265 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *How Great Thou Art* – Stuart K. Wine

\*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)

**With reverence and awe for your ways, we offer our gifts for the work of love and justice, the work of healing, restoring and setting free in your holy name, God of our hearts. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 90

Chalice Hymnal No. 746

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

Dan McKenney

SERMON

Unconditional Love

Rev. Kevin Pleas

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 526

*The Gift of Love*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fugue in D Major* – J. S. Bach

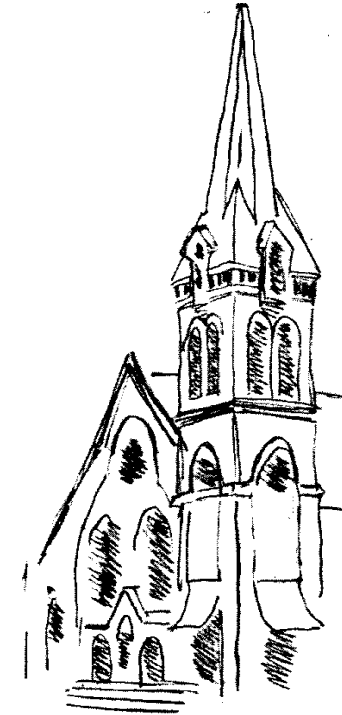
\*You are invited to stand if you wish

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 22:34-40 (Common English Bible)

New Testament page 23 in RSV Pew Bibles

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

# First Congregational Church



August 18, 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