

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

August 25, 2019 9:30 AM  
Season of Pentecost

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PRELUDE *Adagio in C K. 356* – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Happy are those whose hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth--

PEOPLE: **For God keeps faith forever!**

LEADER: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.

PEOPLE: **God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.**

LEADER: God lifts up those who are bowed down.

PEOPLE: **God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.**

LEADER: People of God, sing praise to the One who is your help--

PEOPLE: **For God keeps faith forever!**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 618 *How Firm a Foundation*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Our gracious God, like a loving parent you nurture and encourage and challenge us to grow in grace. Grant that by sensing your Spirit's presence in our midst, we may be enabled to mature in our commitment to you. Forgive our failures and show us once again our possibilities. Prepare us to be servants of your will and agents of your love in all the world. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Because He Lives* – William and Gloria Gaither Bob Ward  
(see Hymn 562 for text)

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. 214 *Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *A Living Prayer* – Ron Block

In this world, I walk alone with no place to call my home. But there is one who holds my hand, the rugged road through barren lands. The way is dark the road is steep, but He's become my eyes to see. The strength to climb by griefs to bear, the Savior lives inside me there.

(Chorus) In Your love I find release, a haven from my unbelief. Take my life and let me be, a living prayer my God to Thee.

In these trials of life, I find another voice inside my mind. He comforts me and bids me live inside the love the Father gives (Chorus)

\*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)

**Lord, you are the bread of heaven, giving life to the world. You fill our emptiness with your goodness. You come to our weakness with your strength. Take and use these gifts to bring in a rich harvest of your heavenly food and life-giving refreshment. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE Psalm 84 Chalice Hymnal No. 745

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 71:1-6 Pam Pleas

SERMON: Taking Refuge Rev. Kevin Pleas

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 560 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Fantasy in F – K. 594 – Mozart*

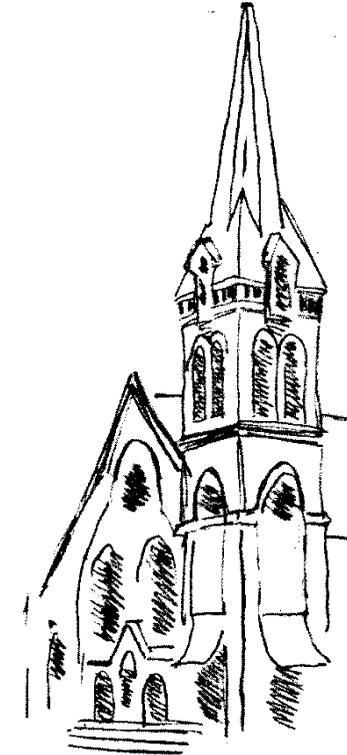
\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 71:1-6 (New Revised Standard Version)

Old Testament page 108 in RSV Pew Bibles

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

# First Congregational Church



August 25, 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