

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

September 1, 2019 9:30 AM

Season of Pentecost

Labor Day Sunday

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PRELUDE Meditation on *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has worked wonders, whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.

PEOPLE: **The Lord has made known salvation; has shown justice to the nations; has remembered truth and love for the house of Israel.**

LEADER: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

PEOPLE: **Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing out your joy.**

LEADER: Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.

PEOPLE: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 6 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body, gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together. Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. Well may your church bring forth your will and your reign. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Sweet Sixteenths, a Concert Rag* – William Albright

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. 354

*Seek Ye First*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Wayfaring Stranger* – arr. Mark Hayes

\*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)

**O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given, and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all peoples, and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

Psalm 31

Chalice Hymnal No. 738

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 2:23-28

Karen Hawver

SERMON:

Remember the Sabbath

Rev. Kevin Pleas

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 261

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Maple Leaf Rag* – Joplin/arr. Gregory Eaton

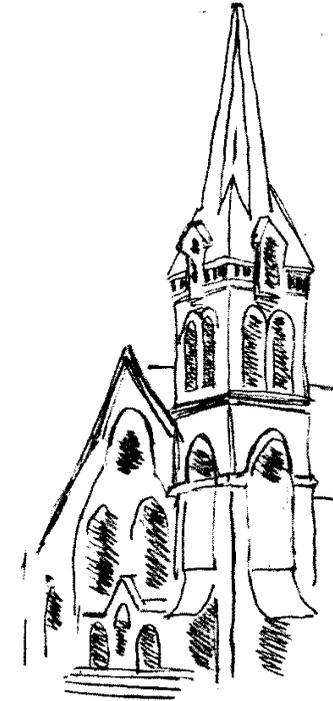
\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 2:23-28 (NRSV)

New Testament page 34 in RSV Pew Bibles

One sabbath he was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

# First Congregational Church



September 1, 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