

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 15, 2019 10:00 AM

Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE *Grave from Concerto in G Major* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Give Me a Clean Heart* – Margaret J. Couroux Chancel Choir

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow thee.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Come, listen to the One

PEOPLE: **Who speaks and summons the earth, from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

LEADER: Come, see the One

PEOPLE: **Who shines forth in the perfection of beauty.**

LEADER: Come, bring thanksgiving, the sacrifice that honors the One

PEOPLE: **Who shows the salvation of God.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 3 *The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of salvation, all the earth cries out for the beauty within us that comes from the covenant you made with creation. We, your little flock of young and old, male and female, rich and poor, strong and weak, are not afraid, for it is your good pleasure to give us now your kingdom on earth as in heaven. We have come: we are dressed for action and have our lamps lit, we are ready for a new dawn that brings an everlasting day. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:22-24 (Common English Bible)

But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

MESSAGE: Lost and Found

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)* – arr. James Koerts Chancel Choir

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I'm found; was blind but now I see. Refrain: My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. (Refrain)

The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures. He will be my shield and portion as long as life endures. (Refrain)

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

HYMN NO. 340

Softly and Tenderly

OUR MORNING OFFERING

*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)

Life-giving God, by faith we obey your call to set before you the promise and inheritance of who we are and what we have, which you have first given to us in love. May our humble offering be pleasing in your sight and multiply, as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore, for the greater good of all creation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15:3-10

Sue Clement

SERMON:

Getting Lost

Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 558

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Presto in G Major – J. S. Bach

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:3-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bible: New Testament page 72

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

First Congregational Church



September 15, 2019

Manchester, New Hampshire

United Church of Christ

508 Union Street, Manchester, NH * 603-625-5093

Sunday Worship 10:00 AM (9:30 Summer)

You are welcome here!

An Open & Affirming Congregation