

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 22, 2019 10:00 AM

Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE *Sinfonia* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Barbara Papagian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Come and Find the Quiet Center* Chancel Choir

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: When I think of God's presence in the world, I am grateful;

PEOPLE: **Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.**

LEADER: And when I think of God's presence in my life, I am humbled

PEOPLE: **Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.**

LEADER: And when I think of God's presence in this community, I am glad;

PEOPLE: **Glad to be surrounded by holy people worshipping our Holy God.**

ALL: **Thank you all; thank you God.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 90 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of all ages, who from generation to generation has heard the cries of your children humbly seeking forgiveness, and has welcomed sinners back into your embrace, hear the thoughts of our hearts, examine our motives, forgive us our faults, of word and action. We ask this through your Son, who died that we might know the true cost of forgiveness. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

Kelda York

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing". – Genesis 12:2

MESSAGE

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Hear My Prayer* – Moses Hogan Chancel Choir

O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the mornin' when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear, Lord, please hear my prayer. When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home. Just to know I'm bound for glory. And to hear You say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

HYMN NO. 573

Purer in Heart, O God

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)

As we offer our gifts to you, Holy God, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times – the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the vulnerable – yet are important citizens in your kingdom of grace, justice and hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 16:1-13

Liz Verity

SERMON:

Dishonest Steward or Shrewd Manager?

Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 608

I Would Be True

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in G – J. S. Bach

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 16:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

First Congregational Church



September 22, 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