

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 29, 2019 10:00 AM

Season of Pentecost

PRELUDE *Lied from 24 Pieces in Free Style* – Louis Vierne Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Weave* – Rosemary Crow Chancel Choir

Weave us together in unity and love.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

PEOPLE: For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

LEADER: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

PEOPLE: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 658 *Restless Weaver*

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

O Lord, our God, you are always more ready to give your good gifts to us than we are to seek them, and you are willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find; so to ask that we may joyfully receive; so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened to us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE DRESSES

LEADER: Introduction

PEOPLE: (Unison)

Loving God, allow your blessing to rest upon these dresses, and upon all those who have participated in the creation of them. In giving them out as gifts of our love, may those who receive them know that they are cradled in hope, held in joy, and graced with peace. Remind them that they are indeed loved and never forgotten. Let them know that, with these dresses, they are clothed in your divine love and healing power – through prayer, comfort and compassion. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 35:25-26 & 29 (Common English Bible)

All the skilled women spun cloth with their hands and brought what they had spun in blue and purple and deep red yarns and fine linen. All the women who were eager to use their skill spun the goats' hair. ... All the Israelite men and women who were eager to contribute something for the work that the Lord had commanded Moses to do brought it as a spontaneous gift to the Lord.

MESSAGE: Freewill Offerings

CLOSING PRAYER

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Dan McKenney

CHORAL ANTHEM

Offertory – John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir

(Micah 6:6-8) With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, Shall I come before him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

HYMN NO. 680

O God of Every Nation

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*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)

**God, our Creator, with these gifts we offer you our lives to do your work in the world.
Take our bodies and our minds, our work and our leisure, our relationships with other
people, our friendships and our family life, our dreams and our doubts, our faith and
our plans for the future. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we bring them all to
you. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:11-16

Craig Finefrock

SERMON:

Weaving the Fabric of Life

Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 487 *Help Us Accept Each Other (alt. tune)*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Finale from Symphony no. 2 – Charles Marie Widor

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 4:11-16 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bible: New Testament page 179

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

First Congregational Church



September 29, 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