

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

January 5, 2020 10:00 AM

Second Sunday After Christmas

PRELUDE *Trio in F major* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Alleluia!* – Jacques Berthier Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Blessings to God, who gives hope in the darkness of our lives.

PEOPLE: **Blessings to Jesus Christ, who reveals God’s love unto the world.**

LEADER: Blessings to the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to be a light for others.

PEOPLE: **Blessings, honor, and glory to God, today and forever. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 172 *We Three Kings*
(Refrain is sung after vs. 1 and 5)

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor. The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the night that covers the earth and signals the dawn of justice and peace. May his brightness illumine our lives and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD’S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN’S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:11 (CEB)

They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chest and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

MESSAGE: What Happened to the Gold?

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Brightest and Best* – Southern Harmony/arr. Kirchner Chancel Choir

Hail the bless’d morn, see the great mediator down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.

Refrain: Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid. Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all. (Refrain)

Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion, odours of Edom and off’rings divine, Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
(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

Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

*HYMN NO. 540 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY – To the tune of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Gracious God, you have shown your great love for your children by using commonplace things for your purposes – water to mark your children, bread and wine to feed and nourish us, ordinary people to be disciples, a child in a manger to announce your grace. Take the commonplace things we return to you this morning; these gifts of paper and metal and the lives that stand behind them. Bless and use them to proclaim your gracious love, for we offer them in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 Vicki Tinsley

SERMON Paying Homage Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 169 *O Thou Joyful*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *In Thee is Gladness – J. S. Bach*

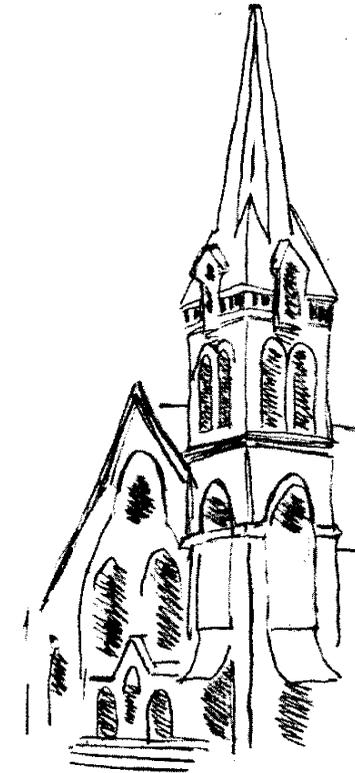
*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bible: New Testament page 1

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

First Congregational Church



January 5, 2020

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