

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

January 12, 2020 10:00 AM

Epiphany Sunday

PRELUDE *Andante* – Felix Mendelssohn Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Seek Ye First* – Karen Lafferty Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

PEOPLE: **See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,**

LEADER: But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

PEOPLE: **Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 176 *Sing of God Made Manifest*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Almighty Lord God, you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world: We praise and magnify your holy name that in him you have revealed the wonder of your saving love to all people. With those of old who brought their tribute to his feet, confessing him as King of heaven and earth, we now present the worship of our grateful hearts, asking you to give us grace to give ourselves to you, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM *Immortal, Invisible* – arr. Eric H. Thiman
(text is from hymn no. 66)

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

Take, oh, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

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)

Loving and receptive God, creator of a Bethlehem birth and sustainer of the whole human family, we come to you seeking to be wise women and wise men. Like the gifts of those travelers long ago, may our gifts be a sign that wisdom is marked by an offering of self and substance to the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 2:1-11 Karen Hawver

SERMON: The Wedding in Cana Rev. Kevin Pleas

*HYMN NO. 425 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the sacrament, members and visitors. Our elements are non-alcoholic grape juice, bread, and a gluten-free alternative, usually rice cakes.

INVITATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Light of the World: you gave us the transforming birth of the child Jesus as a light for our path. Yet we confess that we shut our eyes to the light. We admit that we do not want to see the gift you have given us. We acknowledge our reluctance to see and share our gifts with our sisters and brothers. We are often dazzled by the glitter and tinsel the world has made of Christ's birth. We ask that your Spirit be lit within us, that we may share your gifts of peace and justice with all people. We seek to receive, and return the gift of Christ's birth and death, again and again. For it is in his name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

CHORAL ANTHEM *You Are My All in All* – Dennis L. Jernigan Chancel Choir

You are my strength when I am weak; you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all. When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 385 *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegro con brio* – Felix Mendelssohn

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 2:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bible: New Testament page 86

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

First Congregational Church



January 12, 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