

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

February 2, 2020 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

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

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Holy Ground* – Geron Davis Chancel Choir

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around; let us praise Jesus now, we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: We come together as a community of faith. We have come to talk and listen to God.

ALL: May our faces shine with anticipation! Our God has invited us to this time of worship.

LEADER: We share a covenant of promise and hope. Our spirits have been set free to praise the God we love.

ALL: Let us praise God's holy name! Let us share in the glory of God's life!

*OPENING HYMN NO. 655 *Community of Christ*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Holy God of all time and space, you have given us the gift of life to handle with prayer. You call us today to the mountaintop to see the brightness of your glory. Enlighten and empower us to listen and obey the One we call Lord through all the struggles and joys of this life, all the way to the cross and beyond. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 6:6 (CEB)

He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

MESSAGE: What God Requires of Us

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *The Gift of Love* – arr. Hal Hopson Chancel Choir

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide ev'ry deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

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

In this time of quiet rev'ence, God, fill us now with everlasting peace, and may each and ev'ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.

*HYMN NO. 588 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

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)

Thank you, God, for choosing us to speak and act on your behalf. With these offerings, we rededicate our lives to discipleship to Jesus, no matter what it may cost us. May we have both the courage and the joy to follow you all the way to Jerusalem. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 16:24-27 Carol Soucy

SERMON:

Groundhog Day, Again

Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 108

Lift High the Cross

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carillon from 24 Pieces in Free Style – Louis Vierne

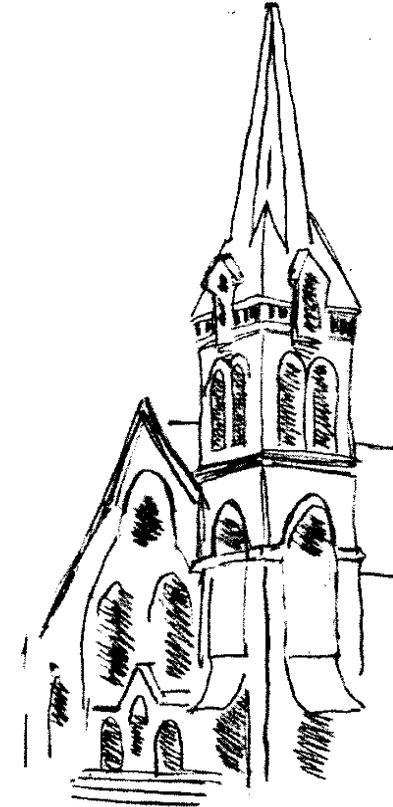
*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 16:24-27 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bibles: New Testament page 17

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

First Congregational Church



February 2, 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

