

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

February 16, 2020 10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Gospel Sunday

PRELUDE *Sweet Sixteenths* – William Albright Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *My Tribute* – Andraé Crouch Chancel Choir

To God be the glory for the things you have done. With his blood Christ has saved me;
with your power you have raised me; to God be the glory for the things you have done.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: The glory of God transfigures the everyday!

PEOPLE: **The light of God transfigures familiar faces!**

LEADER: At the heights of our worship, may God's presence shine through the
commonplace.

PEOPLE: **At the depths of our pain and struggle, may God's presence give us
courage and peace.**

ALL: **May God's light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days!**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 529 *I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me*
(Sing verses 1-3, then repeat verse 1)

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

**Mighty God, stay with us always, as we worship and as we share the risk and
challenge of living our faith. By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage and our
confusion to confidence. Your glory shines in the face of Christ. Shine in our hearts and
lives. May your name be praised, glorious God! Amen.**

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:1-3 (Common English Bible)

*The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was
written about in the prophecy of Isaiah: Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He*

*will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord;
make his paths straight."*

MESSAGE: The Gospel

CLOSING PRAYER

MOMENT FOR MISSION

JoAnn Ward & Kathy Rowe

CHORAL ANTHEM *Lean on Me (Everlasting Arms)* Chancel Choir &
- arr. Pepper Choplin Bridget Thornton, soloist

Leaning safe and secure from all alarms. Leaning on the everlasting arms. Sometimes in
our lives, we all have pain. We all have sorrow, but if we are wise, we know that there's
always tomorrow. We know that we have hope for tomorrow. What a fellowship, what
a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms. What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Lean on me when you're not strong and I'll be your
friend, I'll help you carry on. For it won't be long 'til you're gonna need somebody to
lean on. You just call on Him, brother, when you need a hand. We all a-need somebody
to lean on. You just might have a problem that He'll understand. We all need somebody
to lean on... The Lord says, "Call me, you know you can call me, if you're weary, heavy
laden."

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

Amen. (Spiritual)

CHORAL ANTHEM *Total Praise* – Richard Smallwood/arr. Dorren Rao Chancel Choir

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you. Your peace,
you give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength, you are the
strength of my life, I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.

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)

O God of blessing and of curse, of life and of death, grant that we might have ears to hear the word of life in Christ with all its stark demand. Enable us to hear good news when Christ asks us to give up our attachment to all earthly values, and give us courage to do so. May these gifts be used in his spirit, that we may attain to your blessing. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Second Peter 1:16-21

Janie Shaklee

SERMON

Can I Get A Witness?!

Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 543

Blessed Assurance

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Free Fantasia on *O Zion Haste* and *How Firm a Foundation* – William Bolcom

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Peter 1:16-21 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bibles: New Testament page 216

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

First Congregational Church



February 16, 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