

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

February 23, 2020 10:00 AM

Transfiguration Sunday

\*\*\*\*\*

PRELUDE *Sinfonia* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Barbara Papagian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Fairest Lord Jesus* Chancel Choir

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down; thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: God of the mountain and twisting path

**PEOPLE: God of the narrow and upward way**

LEADER: Your people are gathered to worship

**PEOPLE: In this hour prepare us for the journey. Give us faith, compassion, and endurance to face all hardships**

LEADER: Open our eyes to see you walking beside us, protecting, encouraging, loving us

**ALL: We pray this in the name of Jesus who moves us. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 100 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

**Radiant God, source of light, as you surround Jesus with your glory, so you come to us in penetrating brightness. You catch us off guard and expose our weakness. We seek the spectacular while you bind up the broken in countless acts of mercy. We seek to stay on the mountain or in a comfortable pew while you walk to the valleys of need. Radiant God, fill us with light and courage to carry good news into all the corners of the world and to bring back the joy of your presence. Amen.**

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 17:1-7

MESSAGE: Jesus, the Transformer

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Be Thou My Vision* – arr. Alice Parker Chancel Choir

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Father, I thy true son; Thou in my dwelling, and I with thee one. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise. Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and thou only, first in my heart, high king of heaven, my treasure thou art. High king of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heav'ns joys O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what ever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

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. 572 *Take Time to Be Holy*

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)

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the premise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 17:1-9

Pip Adams

SERMON

Changes Happen, Be Not Afraid

Barbara Papagian

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 552

*Standing on the Promises*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Praeludium in C BWV 531 – J. S. Bach*

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

# First Congregational Church



February 23, 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