

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 1, 2020 10:00 AM

Communion Sunday

First Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Adagio from Organ Symphony no. 2* – Charles-Marie Widor Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

INTROIT *Kyrie Eleison* – Russian Orthodox Liturgy Chancel Choir
(*Lord, Have Mercy*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

LEADER: Come, all who are poor in spirit;
Come, all who mourn;
Come, all who are meek;
Come, all who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

PEOPLE: **Come, all who would be merciful;
Come, all who would be pure in heart;
Come, all who would be peacemakers.**

LEADER: Let us come together – the weak, the simple, the powerless, the foolish.

PEOPLE: **Let us confess that the source of our life is Christ Jesus.
Let us worship the God of every blessing.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 16 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

With different gifts, with a variety of talents, with an array of interests, we come to worship you, our creating God. We are here to unite our spirits, to be made one in Jesus Christ, to be merged in hope as your children. Bless our differences, that the unique gifts and perceptions of each may strengthen our oneness. Drawn into your Spirit, we give you the thanks of our hearts, in the name of the living Christ. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

OFFERING FOR OUR CHILDREN'S MISSION PROJECT

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:12-13 (Common English Bible)

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

MESSAGE: Forty Days and Forty Nights

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *The Way of the Cross Leads Home* Chancel Choir
- Jessie Pounds/M. McDonald

I must needs go home by the way of the cross; there is no other way than this. I shall never get sight of the gates of light if the way of the cross I miss. Refrain: The way of the cross leads home; It is sweet to know as I onward go. I must needs go on in the blood sprinkled way, the path that the Savior trod; if I ever climb to the heights sublime where the soul is at rest with God. 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

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 (sung to our traditional tune of "Old Hundred")

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

O Mighty One, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:33-37

Ellie Stetson

SERMON

The Lesson of Authenticity

Rev. Kevin Pleas

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.

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 402 *According to Thy Gracious Word*

INVITATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we confess that we do not expect and long for the transforming power of your love to work miracles in these hard hearts of ours. Yet we secretly long for a rescue, an escape, a miracle, to relieve us of the responsibilities and the challenges you set before us. Healing Spirit, renew our confidence in your power and in the power of love to change our lives, and give us courage to be the fully responsible persons Christ calls us to be. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Eat this Bread and Bless the Lord – Taizé Chants

Chancel Choir

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank for the love that brings us food from heaven, gives us the life of your dear Son, and assures us that we belong to the company of all his faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of his Holy Spirit, we may continue his work in the world, until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 432 *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Finale from Symphony no. 2 – Charles-Marie Widor

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 5:33-37 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bibles: New Testament page 5

Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

First Congregational Church



March 1, 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