

*First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship*

March 8, 2020 10:00 AM

Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Grave and Adagio from Sonata 2* – Felix Mendelssohn Adam Peithmann

WELCOME Rev. Kevin Pleas

TIME OF SILENCE

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Let us worship God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.

People: We are new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!

Leader: Let us worship God as Christ's ambassadors.

People: Through us and through our worship may we announce the good news to all.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: Praise God! We are reconciled, redeemed and renewed!

*OPENING HYMN NO. 23 *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Holy God, we come before you thankful that you love us as we are. We are creatures of your hand; we are a community formed by your Spirit. You are the potter; we are the clay. With your sure and loving hands, shape us, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING: Second Timothy 3:16-17 (CEB)

Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

MESSAGE: An Inspired Bible

CLOSING PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM *Down to the River to Pray with Lord, Listen to your Children*
- K. Medema/M. McDonald Chancel Choir

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way and who shall wear the stary crown, Good Lord, show me the way. O brother, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. O brother, let's go down, down to the river to pray. O Lord, listen to your children prayin'. O Lord, send your Spirit in this place, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. Something's gonna happen like the world has never known, when the people of the Lord get down to pray. A door's gonna swing open and the walls come a-tumblin' down, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.

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

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*HYMN NO. 561 *It Is Well With My Soul*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY FOR LENT (sung to our traditional tune of "Old Hundreth)

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)

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we

contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 5:17-20 Sam Knowles

SERMON: The Lesson of Scripture Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 517 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Allegro assai vivace from Organ Sonata no. 1 – F. Mendelssohn*

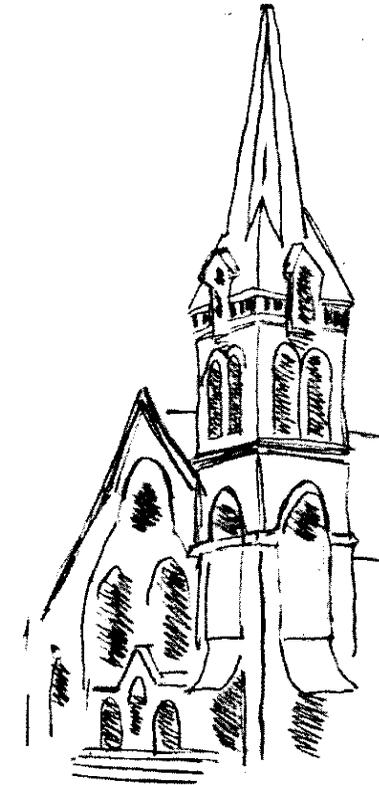
*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Matthew 5:17-20 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bibles: New Testament pages 4

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

First Congregational Church



March 8, 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