

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 15, 2020 10:00 AM

Third Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *What Wondrous Love Is This* – arr. John Carter 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: O God, you send us out, like Abram and Sarai.

People: We travel by day, in confidence.

Leader: You draw us close, like Nicodemus.

People: We travel by night, with questions.

Leader: With our hopes and our doubts,

People: We embark on our journeys of faith.

Leader: With the saints of every age,

People: We seek the way that leads into your love.

Leader: We pause on our journey to praise you,

People: And rejoice to find you with us, guiding every step.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 288 *O God of Vision*

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

Beckoning God, you plant in us urgent questions, wonderings, calls, that lead us to you. You gather us into your Church: prophets and ponderers, travelers and builders. You make room for us and challenge us to be your beloved community. Bless us so that we may become a blessing in your world, doing your work of justice, hope and truth, among all people. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW MEMBERS

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

READING OF THE COVENANT Please see green bulletin insert for the Church Covenant

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus our Christ, we gladly welcome you into this community of faith, enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to your care. In the power of God's Spirit, let us mutually encourage each other to trust God, and strengthen one another to serve the world, that Christ's church may in all things stand faithful.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP

PRAYER AND BLESSING

(Children may now leave for Church School)

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Marsha Neubert

CHORAL ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer – Moses Hogan

Chancel Choir

O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the morn-in' when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home. Just to know I'm bound for glory. And to hear you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. 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

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. 490

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

**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)

Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:21-26 & 38-42 Carol Soucy

SERMON The Lessons of Anger Rev. Kevin Pleas

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 334 *Sing My Song Backwards*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Toccata – Douglas E. Wagner*

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 5:21-26 & 38-42 (New Revised Standard Version)

Pew Bibles: New Testament pages 4

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

First Congregational Church



March 15, 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