

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Selma Naccach-Hoff, Worship Leader
Online Worship
Thanksgiving Sunday & ONA Anniversary Observance
November 22, 2020

PRELUDE “We Gather Together to Ask the Lord’s Blessing”- arr. Marcia Wells Adam Peithmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Barbara Papagian

INTROIT “Give Thanks” – Henry Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the wondrous gifts that God has given us.

People: Throughout our lives, God has blessed us with love and hope.

Leader: Praise be to God who provides for us.

People: May our hearts be truly grateful, and may we show our gratitude by the ways in which we live and care for others.

Leader: Hallelujah

People: Amen

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Lord of bounty and blessing, we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your holy Name. Bless each of us here, that we may become truly blessings to others. For we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

HYMN # 2 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

PASTORAL PRAYER

TIME OF SILENCE

OUR 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE “For the Beauty of the Earth” (vs. 2)

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light. Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING VOTE

LITANY: The Good Word By Rev. Ann B. Day Program Coordinator, Open and Affirming Program of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns 1987-2007
Based on I Corinthians 13:1-13 Originally published in Shaping Sanctuary

Readers: Carol Soucy & Bridget Thornton

Voice I: What's the "good word" we have for the world? What do we say through the worship and witness of our church?

Voice II: We say, "We believe in God, known in Jesus Christ." We say, "Let there be justice and peace!"

Voice I: We say, "Come, accept the cost and joy of discipleship." We say, "Our congregation is Open and Affirming."

All: It is good to voice our beliefs and commitments. But say what we will, even in angelic tones, if we do not love each other, our talk is cheap.
We shall sound to the world like clanging cymbals.

Voice II: We thank God for the joy of learning!
We are curious about the world within us,
the world around us and the worlds beyond us.
We wonder about the Creator of it all.
Exploring tradition, scripture, and experience,
we pray and reason together.
Our faith seeks understanding.

All: It is good to grow in knowledge and wisdom.
But even if we knew everything,
even if we have mountain-moving faith,
if we do not love each other,
we have gained nothing.

Voice II: What does love ask of us?

All: Love asks that we be patient and kind
as we build an inclusive faith community,
that we abandon arrogance,
that we risk new things,
that we not delight in the failings of others,
that we rejoice in discerning and living God's truth.

FCC Open and Affirming Covenant

Readers: Renee, Emelia, and James Attridge

**Open and Affirming Covenant
First Congregational Church
Manchester, NH**

The faith community of First Congregational Church, Manchester NH reaffirms our shared covenant and beliefs that the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to love one another and to extend welcome to all people. We affirm that each individual is a child of God and that all are worthy of God's love and grace.

As witness to these beliefs and as covenant members of Christ's church, we proclaim and celebrate God's love for people of all ages, all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all other diverse attributes that are woven into the fabric of humankind.

We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the complete life and ministry of our church. With God's grace, we resolve to be an open, inclusive, affirming, and accessible community of faith. We invite all to participate and share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of our Christian community.

Approved - November 19, 2017
Entered into FCC Bylaws- February 18, 2018

ANTHEM "Let All Things Now Living" – Welsh Folk Melody/Katherine K. Davis FCC Virtual Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

SERMON "How Shall We Sing the Lord's Name" Selma Naccach-Hoff

CLOSING HYMN # 718 "Come, Ye Faithful People, Come"

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION

Go into the world showing a gentle attitude toward everyone.

Be joyful and grateful!

Fill your mind with those things that are good and deserve praise.

May the God who gives peace be with each of you.

We go in the peace of Christ to love and serve all creation. Amen.

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.

Selma Naccach-Hoff is the current Moderator of the FCC Church Council and serves as Chair of the Reopening Task Force, having served on nearly every board and committee during her life-long membership at her beloved First Congregational Church. Although Selma recently retired after a 45-year tenure as English teacher and department chair at Central High School, she remains active in a wide range of community activities, among which are the boards of the Elliot Hospital, the VNA, the Manchester Historic Association, UNH Manchester, and is a founding member of Reaching Higher NH, a state-wide advocacy group for public education in our state. Selma and her husband Paul live in Bedford, where they are learning to navigate a new life under the limitations imposed by the current health crisis.

Hymn No. 2 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

4. Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part; love divine is reigning o’er us, binding those of tender heart. So singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away; giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part; love divine is reigning o’er us, binding those of tender heart. Ever singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife, joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Hymn No. 718 “Come, Ye Faithful People, Come”

3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence our blessings flow; for these our souls raise grateful vows and praise. Come, then, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

1. Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

2. All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield, all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky, all that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land, all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'er flowing stores,

3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow; and for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise. Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.