

PRIDE MONTH SUNDAY

Rev. Kevin M. Pleas
Online Worship
June 13, 2021

PRELUDE "Over the Rainbow" – arr. Jim Brickman Adam Peithmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Kevin Pleas

INTROIT # 263 "Surely the Presence of the Lord"

CALL TO WORSHIP Carol Soucy and Elizabeth Blood

Reader 1: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

Reader 2: With my mouth, I will declare your faithfulness to this generation and all generations.

Reader 1: Your steadfast love is established forever.

Reader 2: Your faithfulness is as firm as the strongest oak, as strong as the heavens themselves.

Reader 1: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, my servant David"

Both: Following you, we have established our own covenant with you and each other, to affirm the lives of our transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings, to invite them into the full life and ministry of your Church, our church.

Reader 1: For you are the glory of their strength, of our strength

Both: By your favor, our burdens are lifted. For your steadfast love endures all things.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Together we defy the darkness by being the Light. We make violence tremble by being peacemakers. When chaos and trauma cause distress, we counter by reaching for love and remembering joy. This day, when people are going hungry, give us bread to share. This day, when people are angry and hurtful, give us forgiveness to offer. When there is so much temptation to be selfish and careless, this day give us the strength to be kind and intentional. Remind us that we are all born holy and deserve love and tenderness. In the many names of Love, may it be so.

HYMN "Let Us Build a House"

A READING OF OUR OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

Readers: Liz Verity, Stan Clark, Jim Fogle, Linda Noble and Bruce Kinney

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 by the Congregation on Sunday, November 19, 2017

PASTORAL PRAYER

Barbara Papagian

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 # 303

“In This Time”

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Christ Has Broken Down the Wall” by Mark Miller

Elizabeth Blood,

Carol Soucy, Adam Peithmann and Jeffery Frye

Christ has broken down the wall! Let us join our hearts as one. Christ has broken down the wall! We're accepted as we are. Through God's love all is reconciled. We're accepted as we are. Cast aside your doubts and fears. Peace and love freely offered here. Cast aside your doubts and fears. We will tear down the wall. We will tear down every wall! God has called us, one and all; Christ has broken down the wall.

SCRIPTURE READING

Karen Hawver

Colossians 1:11-20 (New Revised Standard Version)

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

“The Inner Rainbow”

Rev. Kevin Pleas

HYMN # 684

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION (Unison)

**Continue to serve with faith and love,
Depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself,
Through generosity of time and resources,
Meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen, heard and
unheard As the God of healing has healed us,
Let us go now and share that compassion with the world,
Let us go and greet our beloved transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay siblings,
Our Black, Latinx, Indigenous, siblings
Sharing the good news that they are seen, they are heard, they are Beloved.
Go now in hope. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” – arr. Joel Raney

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.

Introit**Hymn no. 263****“Surely the Presence of the Lord”**

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Opening Hymn**“Let Us Build a House”**

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome; all are welcome; in this place.

(Refrain) All are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and worlds are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim floor to rafter: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Prayer Response**Hymn no. 303****“In This Time”**

In this time of quiet reverence, God fills us now with everlasting peace and may each and ev'ry day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.

Closing Hymn no. 684**“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”**

1. We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflower's growing, for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing. With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation, that all may have abundant life in ev'ry earthly nation.

2. When bodies shiver in the night and, weary, wait for morning, when children have no bread but tears, and war horns sound their warning, God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor, that all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

3. God calls humanity to join as partners in creating a future free from want and fear, life's goodness celebrating. That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor, that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.