

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 12, 2021 10:00 AM

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE *Hymn of Promise* – arr. John Ferguson Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Carolyn Keilig

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: God sets before us life and death.

People: We long to choose life.

Leader: God sets before us blessings and curses.

People: We long to choose blessings.

Leader: Along the way, day by day, and night by night...

People: God watches over us, loving and healing us.

Leader: Come, celebrate with joy the love of God.

People: Let us worship God with joy!

OPENING PRAYER

God of new beginnings, we have come this day to hear your words of healing love and hope for our future. Yet we recognize that too often our present journey feels like one long treadmill that will last forever. Help us to see you in this community of faith, that we may feel and know the strength, courage and determination of our fellow travelers. Help us act together to lift any burdens that may deter us from being faithful disciples of Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 613 *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

OUTREACH MOMENT FOR MISSION – Blessing of the Books

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT MEDITATION

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING *With a Voice of Singing* – Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia. O be Joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Karen Hawver

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Mark 8:27-38

SERMON *The Long Good-Bye* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 458 *Ours the Journey*

BENEDICTION

Leader: God has placed before you life and death, blessings and curses. Therefore choose life, follow God’s way. Go now, and be a people of reconciliation and integrity. Let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” “no”.

And in all the paths you walk
may God hold you steady and close.
May Christ Jesus bless you and every place you enter.
And may the Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life.

People: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, knowing we are surrounded by God’s presence. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Prelude and Fugue in C major (“Little”)* – J. S. Bach

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

First Congregational Church



September 12, 2021

**Manchester, New Hampshire
United Church of Christ**

508 Union Street, Manchester, NH * 603-625-5093
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

You are welcome here!
An Open & Affirming Congregation