

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 19, 2021 10:00 AM

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE *Cromorne sur la Taille* – Francois Couperin Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

People: Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Leader: Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

People: Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

Leader: Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

People: Our God tells us if we want to be first we need to go to the end of the line.

Leader: Let us worship our God, who welcomes us and calls us beloved.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of unsearchable mystery and light, be with us this day, helping us to put our priorities in order so that we may faithfully serve you by serving your people. Help us to bring hope to the hopeless, joy to those who sorrow, peace to the afflicted and to be true witnesses to the love of God through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 461 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

LITURGY OF WELCOME & COVENANT (see insert)

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *Mirror, Mirror* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT MEDITATION

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 *Lead Me, Lord* – G. F. Handel Michelle Harrington & Carol Soucy

Lead me, Lord, lead me evermore; Lead me in Thy righteousness now and evermore. Let Thy love, Thy tender mercies be upon me, For Thy law is my delight; Quicken me in Thy loving kindness. Teach me, Lord, the way of thy statutes; Teach me, Lord, all Thy commandments, For Thy law is my delight

SCRIPTURE READINGS Ellie Stetson

Psalm 1; Mark 9:30-37

SERMON *A Winning Welcome* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 490 *Sister, Let me Be Your Servant*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Go forth and welcome all God's children, making the last, first, and becoming a servant to all. Like Jesus, take children and put them among you; take them into your arms, and remember, whoever welcomes one such child welcomes God!

People: We will go forth to walk the road of service and feed others with God's hope, knowing we are sustained by our deep roots of faith. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Dialogue on the Grands Jeux* – Francois Couperin

During these challenging times, we gratefully accept your financial offering to support Christ's mission in the heart of our city. Your gift may be left in any of the offering plates located at the exits.

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

The Call to Worship is adapted and used by permission, © Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

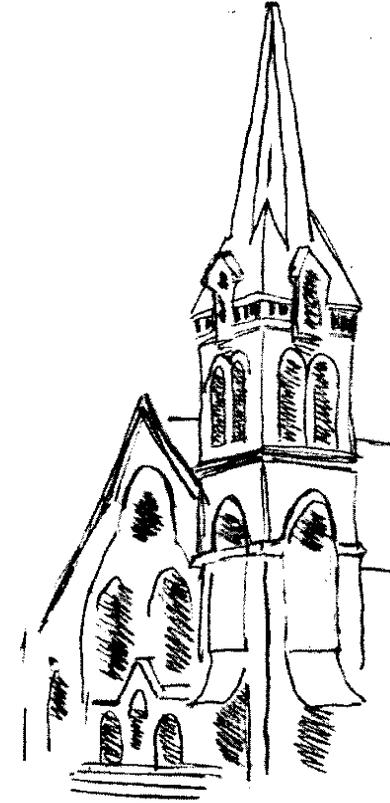
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

First Congregational Church



September 19, 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