

*First Congregational Church*

*Our Church in Worship*

September 26, 2021 10:00 AM

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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PRELUDE *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* – Douglas E. Wagner Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Dan McKenney

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Come, rest your spirits in the Lord.

**People: We come, hungering and thirsting for God's word.**

Leader: This is a place of peace and hope, where all may be fed and healed.

**People: Bring us to the time of healing.**

Leader: Come, place your trust in God who is always near you.

**People: Open our hearts, Lord, to hear your word and feel your presence.**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**If only you had given us great wealth, O Holy God, we could be better people, caring for others and being generous stewards of all that we have received from you. If only things always went our way, we would find it so much easier to follow Jesus and not be a stumbling block to others. O God of patience, continue to speak to us and challenge us, despite our complaints, helping us to hear you in our inner hearts and respond in faith. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 253 *Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness*

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *If Only!* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT MEDITATION

OUR 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 *Guide, My Feet, Lord* – arr. John Carter Chancel Choir

Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand...

Stand by me...

SCRIPTURE READINGS Carol Soucy

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Mark 9:38-50

SERMON *Who Is with Us?* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 73 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Go now and celebrate wherever God's name is honored.

When suffering comes, pray in faith.

In times of joy, sing songs of praise.

Persevere in prayer and action to bring the lost back to God's embrace.

And may God save you from all that would harm you;

May Christ Jesus heal you and raise you up; and may the Holy Spirit anoint you

and give you peace with one another.

**People: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, grateful for the opportunity to minister in Christ's name in the company of others. Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* – arr. Joel Raney

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.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is

nothing at all but this manna to look at.” Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,’ to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

So the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”

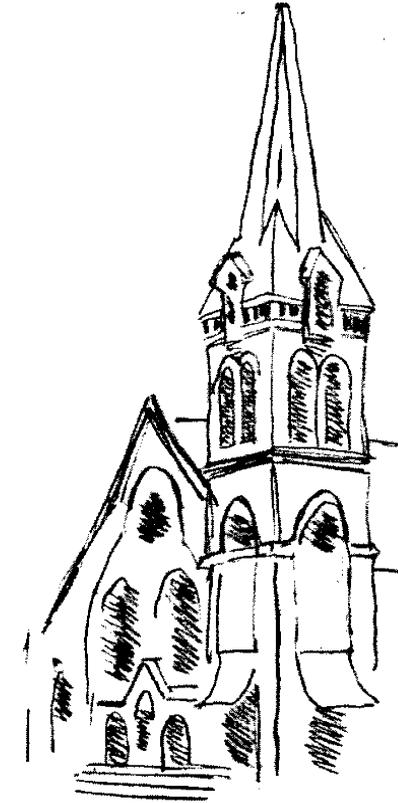
**Mark 9:38-50**

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

# First Congregational Church



September 26, 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