

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

October 31, 2021 10:00 AM

Reformation Sunday

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision – Zsolt Gárdonyi* Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Elizabeth Blood

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Welcome today to a service of re-formation.

People: Change is our constant companion. What does God have in store for us?

Leader: God seeks to form our lives anew, as lives of love and service.

People: We are ready to hear God's word and do God's will.

Leader: Open your eyes, your ears, your hearts to God's awesome love.

People: Come, O Lord, and transform our lives.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Open our eyes, Lord. Help us to see Jesus as he reaches out to heal our blindness. Help us to let go of all those things that keep us in darkness. This day, as your word is proclaimed, let our hearts and souls respond with joy. Transform and Re-form our lives to do your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *Stars in Her Eyes* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

CELEBRATING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

INVITATION

AFFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

READING OF THE CHURCH COVENANT

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus our Christ, we gladly welcome you into this community of faith, enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to your care. In the power of God's

Spirit, let us mutually encourage each other to trust God, and strengthen one another to serve the world, that Christ's church may in all things stand faithful.

RECEPTION AND PRAYER

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 *How Firm a Foundation with The Church's One Foundation*

– arr. Michael Ware

Elizabeth Blood, piano &
Adam Peithmann, organ

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Job 42:1-6, 10; Mark 10:46-52

Janie Shaklee

SERMON

Re-vision and Re-form

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 518 *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Go out with your eyes opened to the presence of God and follow Jesus on the way.

Throw off your cloak and enjoy the strength of the Lord.

And may God give you a sense of fulfillment;

May Christ Jesus open your eyes to the wonder of life;

and may the Holy Spirit fill you with the faith that makes you whole.

People: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE

The Strong-Tower-Postlude (A Mighty Fortress) – arr. Matthias Nagel

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 and opening prayer is adapted and used by permission from © Nancy C. Townley, Worship Connection and the Benediction from © 2000 Nathan Nettleton, www.laughingbird.net.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Job 42:1-6, 10

Then Job answered the Lord: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me.' I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

First Congregational Church



October 31, 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