

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

November 7, 2021 10:00 AM

All Saints Sunday

PRELUDE *Berceuse* – Louis Vierne Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

MISSION MOMENT Sue Clement and Justin May
Angel Tree Christmas Stocking Outreach

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Today we give thanks for the dear ones who have gone before us; who surround us like a great cloud of witnesses and make the mysterious heaven a home for our hearts.

People: Especially we remember the less famous saints, and that host of ordinary Christians, who in their day and place, faithfully loved and served the Lord.

Leader: Today we give thanks for the saints who live amongst us and who surround us with their gifts, talents, prayers, and presence.

People: We rejoice that we are part of a greater community of faith; one that encourages us to love others as deeply as we have been loved by God.

Leader: Praise God! Sing a new song of praise, sing God's praise in the assembly of faithful people.

People: For our God takes pleasure in ordinary believers, and welcomes the humble with loving arms.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Holy One, God of all that was and is and ever will be: bless all the saints with the light of your love. Bless those who have gone before us and those who are with us still. Set the clock of our hearts for the days ahead on gratitude and hope and love as we move into your realm. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 637 *For All the Saints*

RECOGNITION OF OUR LONG TERM MEMBERS (Please see the Recognition Bulletin)

Introduction

The Recognition

Prayer of Celebration (Unison)

Year after year, O God, you call us to stay close to you and close to one another. We thank you for the bonds of loyalty, faith and affection that have kept us together as a community and empowered our call to serve you, one another and the world. Today we thank you especially

for those we celebrate as our Long Time Members and are grateful for their many years of service. May we all know the guiding Spirit of your grace, that our church may continue to be a joyful beacon of light, love and faithfulness to this city. Grant that we, individually and all together, might bear fruit worthy of your divine calling and grace. This we ask in the name of your Son, Amen.

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

Bell Peal on Old 100th – Linda R. Lamb

Sabbath Bells

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ruth 1:1-17; Mark 12:28-34

Ruth Knowles

SERMON

Standing at a Crossroad

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 484

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: As you leave this place, go with God.

People: We will go wherever God goes.

Leader: As you depart to serve, go with Christ.

People: We will not turn back from following Jesus.

Leader: As you live the coming days, go with the Spirit.

People: God's people will be our people, and we will share our lives with them. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Carillon – Louis Vierne

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 benediction is from *Lectionary Liturgies* © Thom M. Shuman

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ruth 1:1-17

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

First Congregational Church



November 7, 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