

*First Congregational Church*

*Our Church in Worship*

November 14, 2021 10:00 AM

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

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PRELUDE *Over the Rainbow* – arr. Jim Brickman Adam Peithmann, piano  
& Leo LeBlanc, percussion

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Carolyn Keilig  
OPEN & AFFIRMING MOMENT Carol Soucy

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: God is calling us out. Out of the places we hide, out of insecurity, out of shame, and out from under that which silences love and justice.

**People: We want to serve God, but sometimes life gets to be too difficult for us.**

Leader: Though we may be afraid, though we will be at risk!

**People: God calls us to courage!**

Leader: Our God is a god of resurrection. Of new life after devastation. Of hope in the grip of evil. And so we dare to proclaim, with pride and faith, our truths.

**People: We believe in the power of love. We believe in solidarity with suffering. We believe we are each valuable. We believe that our togetherness is transformative.**

Leader: The world is longing for Holy truths that reveal, voices that speak real words of hope.

**All: Come out, people of God!**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) (Based on Romans 6)

**God, we come before you in these mortal bodies, pledging that we will become instruments of peace, love and hope. Christ called us to serve as disciples to all nations, to all people. We commit to serving without fear, learning how to serve as Jesus served, seeing the belovedness of your people, people set free from sin through the sacrifice of the Cross. Let us be instruments to glorify you, O God. Let our hearts and minds hear the message of love and hope delivered on Calvary. God of all truth and goodness, help us to set aside shame, shame that has no advantage. Shame that does not reflect the good news, that we have been given eternal life. Let us be obedient to the work Jesus entrusted to us, let us hear his teaching, and through it learn how we are to treat one another. Hear this prayer of our hearts, O God. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 288 *O God of Vision*

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *Hand in Hand* 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 *Child of God* – Mark A. Miller Chancel Choir

No matter what people say, say or think about me, I am a child of God. No matter what people say, say or think about you, you are a child of God. No matter what the world says, says or thinks about me, I am a child of God. No matter what the church says, decisions, pronouncements on you, you are a child of God. And there is no thing, or no one who can separate, they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone, you are family, you are meant to be, a child of God! You are a child of God!

SCRIPTURE READINGS Liz Verity  
Deuteronomy 6:5-7 and Matthew 22:34-40

SERMON *It's All About Loving All* Rev. Barbara Papagian

OPEN & AFFIRMING LITANY (see bulletin insert)

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 459 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

BENEDICTION (Unison)

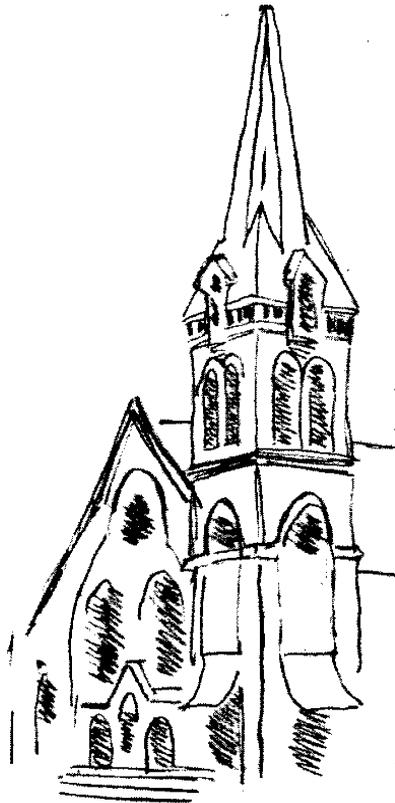
**May your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows Your justice, Your peace, and Your love. Amen.**

POSTLUDE *We are Unbroken - Even After All* Words & Music by Jeffrey Frye

Some people say that we are not God's children,  
Some people say we'll never be forgiven,  
Some people say we ought to change our way of living,  
They say we ought to be ashamed of who we're loving.

But I, believe, there is reason, God's design,  
And I recall, everything, has a season and time,  
And in the end, truth we'll find.

# First Congregational Church



Refrain:  
We are unbroken – even after all,  
We are unstoppable – we are standing tall,  
We’re undeniable – God can hear us when we call,  
We are unbroken – even after all.

Jesus said that you must love your brother,  
And what’s so hard, being kind to one another?  
He who is without sin, there’s no man alive,  
Throwing stones won’t ever help to survive.

Still I, believe, there is reason – by design,  
I still recall, everything, has a season and time,  
And in the end, God’s truth and glory we will find.

Refrain  
We’ve got to stop clinging to the ways that things have always been done,  
It’s time to open up those doors, because God’s love is for everyone,  
Yes, God’s love is for everyone!

Refrain (ALL)

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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.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Deuteronomy 6:5-7**

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

**Matthew 22:34-40**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

November 14, 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