

*First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship*

January 2, 2022 10:00 AM

Second Sunday after Christmas

PRELUDE *Andante Cantabile* – Charles Marie Widor Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

People: God is there.

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

People: God is there.

Leader: This very morning,

People: God is here.

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

People: God is there.

All: Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Rev. Carolyn Keilig

All-glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without imperfections in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: It's over - last year is gone. Our words, our thoughts, our deeds are in the past.

Today, we begin anew. Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope.

People: Here, now, forever - we are forgiven and healed. This year, let us live as such people. Thanks be to God.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 142 *People, Look East*

READING OF SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-40

Rev. Barbara Papagian

INTERACTIVE MEDITATION

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

Saying Good-bye to the Year that Has Been

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

INTERACTIVE MEDITATION

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

Hopes and Dreams for the Year to Come

The Sacrament of Communion

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 161 *I Wonder as I Wander*

CALL TO COMMUNION AND WORDS OF REMEMBERING

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(a Deacon will invite you forward row by row; should you wish, a Deacon will bring Communion to you. When all have received the elements, we will eat and drink together)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation; a light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, and the light of your love rekindled within each of us. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Thank you for giving us patience and hope when the way is dark and long. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 432 *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Loving God, now your servants may go in peace, just as has been promised by your word;

People: for our own eyes have seen your salvation made ready with everyone looking on, a revealing light for outsiders, and a glory for all your faithful people.

Leader: Grace mercy and peace, from the Creator, Saviour and Counsellor, will be with you now and ever more. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Toccata – Douglas E. Wagner*

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

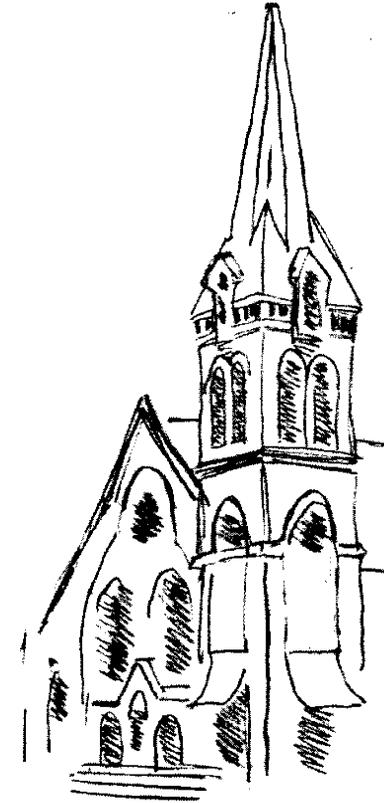
SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

First Congregational Church



January 2, 2022

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