

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

February 27, 2022 10:00 AM

Transfiguration Sunday

PRELUDE *Allegretto from Sonata no. 4* – Felix Mendelssohn Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: It is easy to stand here in the valley of our comfort.

People: We know what to expect and what is expected of us.

Leader: But Christ calls us to the mountain top to receive a new vision.

People: We are not sure we are ready for that.

Leader: Place your hope and trust in Christ, for he is your guide.

All: Let us open our hearts to Christ, ready for the vision he places before us. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Radiant God, source of light, as you surrounded Jesus with your glory, so you come to us in penetrating brightness. You catch us off guard and expose our weakness. We choose the limelight while you call us to explore the shadows and brighten the darkness. We seek the spectacular while you bind up the broken in countless acts of mercy. We seek to stay on the mountain or in a comfortable pew while you walk the valleys of need. Radiant God, fill us with light and courage to carry good news into all the corners of the world and to bring back the joy of your presence. Amen.

(This prayer is borrowed from a publication of the organization, “Many Voices”)

*OPENING HYMN NO. 66 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

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.

MUSICAL OFFERING *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* – arr. Lorie Line

SCRIPTURE READINGS Jennifer Plourde
Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

SERMON “Choose Change” Rev. Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 458 *Ours the Journey*

BENEDICTION

Go in peace with these words from Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

POSTLUDE *Fugue in C from Sonata no. 2* – Felix Mendelssohn

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:

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

First Congregational Church



February 27, 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