

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 13, 2022 10:00 AM

Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Lied* – Louis Vierne Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) *adapted from Psalm 27*

Leader: God is my light, my hope, my all in all: whom shall I fear?

People: God is the stronghold of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: One thing I asked of God: let me live in the shelter of your tent, in the beauty of your realm, in the wonder of your house.

People: We seek your face, God! Do not turn aside!

Leader: Teach us your way, God, show us your path through all that life brings.

People: We shall see the blessing of God: come, Holy Spirit, come.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of compassion, we come to you this morning with so many concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, both inward and outward. Help us to discern what you would have us do, that others may be healed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 464 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

A TIME TO WONDER *A Fox in the Henhouse* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

ANTHEM *Go Ye Into All the World* – Eugene Butler Chancel Choir

Refrain: Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to ev'ry creature!

Jesus said, "This is the great commandment: that ye love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this; that he lay down his life for his friends." (Refrain)

"Let not your heart be troubled, You believe in God. If you believe in God, You believe in Me!" (Refrain)

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.

*HYMN NO. 566 *Be Still, My Soul*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY (Chalice Hymnal No. 46)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

God of power and might, we began the Journey of Lent remembering Christ's time in the wilderness and how the temptation of earthly power and the satisfaction of Christ's personal needs could not overwhelm his faith in you. May the offerings we give this day be a token of our conviction: the power and security the world offers in material things cannot compare with the power and security that come through faith in Christ, your beloved Son. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE Michelle Harrington
Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35

SERMON *Sheltering Strength* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 560 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Go now with the strength to challenge the 'foxes' of our time and break their power over the vulnerable and voiceless.

People: We go trusting that we have gifts to share: hope for those who despair, comfort for all who grieve, justice for the oppressed.

Leader: Go now, sharing the shelter of God's eternal grace and glory.

People: We will shelter those who feel forsaken and take the Word of grace into our world.

Leader: And may God be your saving light and fortress; May Christ Jesus gather you into the safe wings of mercy; And may the Holy Spirit make you citizens of heaven. Amen

POSTLUDE

An Exhortation to Praise – Lani Smith

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

First Congregational Church



March 13, 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