

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 20, 2022 10:00 AM

Third Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE "The Bells" from *Spiritual Suite for Piano* by Margaret Bonds Elizabeth Blood

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: When our pockets are empty, God allows us to purchase what we need,
charging it to grace's account.

People: God thinks differently than we do.

Leader: When our souls are parched, God hands us a glass of living water.

People: God's ways are different from ours.

Leader: When we grow weary of searching, God takes our hand and leads us home.

People: God's love is different from ours.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Generous God, we come seeking your Spirit because we hunger, not just for spiritual food,
but for that hope which strengthens us as your people. We come to open ourselves to your
presence because we thirst, not just for spiritual refreshment, but for that grace which fills
us so we can overflow in service. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 16 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

A TIME TO WONDER *Second Chance* 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.**

*HYMN NO. 339 *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* - arr. Anne Krentz Organ

*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)

**Holy God, you offer abundance to all who are thirsty and hungry. You call out,
drawing us near so that we will listen and delight in your ways. Thank you for giving
us new life in Christ. Help us to set aside that which is not worthy of our time. May
we turn our attention to you and the joy we find in serving our community. Accept
the offering of ourselves, our time, talent, and treasure in Jesus' name. Amen.**

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

Sue Clement

SERMON

Living by Faith

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 537

My Hope is Built

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Go now from this service of worship to the service of God's people near and far.

**People: We have been refreshed and forgiven, and will search out the dry places and the
arid souls, and become for them a spring of living water.**

Leader: And as you go, may the blessings of the God of life, the Christ of love, and the Spirit
of grace be upon you this day and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Great is Thy Faithfulness - arr. Melody Bober

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

First Congregational Church



March 20, 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