

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 27, 2022 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Largo* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Carolyn Keilig

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Happy are those where sins are forgiven.

People: Happy are those to whom God attributes no wrong, those in whose hearts there is no deceit.

Leader: When we keep silent about our wrong doings, our lives disintegrate with worry and guilt.

People: When we struggle to hide from God, the heaviness in our hearts consumes our strength.

Leader: But when we seek Your truth O God, and acknowledge our sin, we experience your forgiveness.

All: Let all people reach out to you in prayer, O God, and know your protection and strength.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Most Holy God, we are constantly bombarded with temptations and enticements. When we yield, when we fail, who will help us? You, Lord, have come to our aid. You teach us, counsel us, and guide us in the ways we should go. We rejoice in your unfailing love. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 277 *Christians, We have Met to Worship*

A TIME TO WONDER Rev. Carolyn Keilig

MUSICAL OFFERING *The Gift of Love* – arr. Hal Hopson Chancel Choir

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, And have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide ev'ry deed. By this we worship and are freed. Amen.

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.

*HYMN NO. 561 *It is Well with My Soul*

OUR MORNING OFFERING Rev. Barbara Papagian

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 new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you.

Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in the church family, and in the community beyond us. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE Ellie Stetson

Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

SERMON *Forgive and Forgiven* Rev. Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 619 *My Life Flows On*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fugue in C Major* – J. S. Bach

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

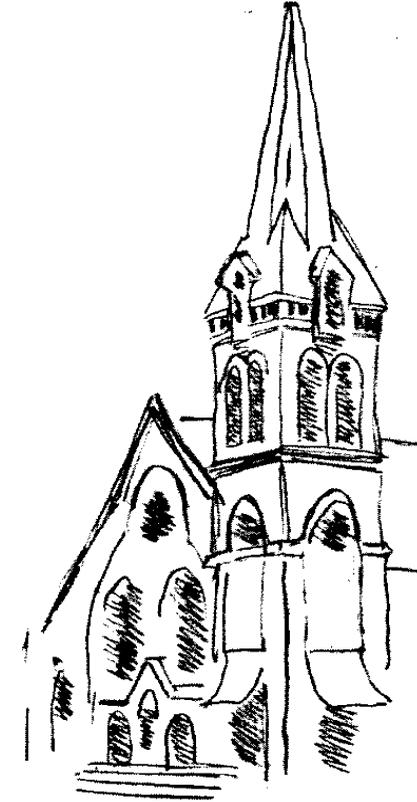
Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

First Congregational Church



March 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