

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

April 3, 2022 10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Siciliano* – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann & Susan Wilkes, flute

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Whatever God did in the past, the future is that much better!

People: We will not stop looking for the newness God has for us!

Leader: Whatever we have achieved to this point, we have not completed our journey.

People: We will quicken our pace to follow Jesus wherever he leads.

Leader: Whatever obstacles we put in the path, God will make a way to our hearts.

People: We will move onward, through our doubts and fears.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Come to this sanctuary, this house, this home, Holy Christ, and let us receive you with a lavish welcome. You are the Restorer of our fortunes and the Promise of new life; we pour out our praise to you. Fill this room with your Spirit: the sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume- and fill our hearts with your compassion, not just in this time and place, but in all times and in all places. As we celebrate the great things you have done for us, may we also embody the love you give to all. We pray this in Christ's name, Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 450 *God the Spirit, Guide, and Guardian*

A TIME TO WONDER *Acts of Loving Kindness* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

MUSICAL OFFERING *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* – arr. Carol Sue Dickson Susan Wilkes

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

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. 97 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 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)

We acknowledge what we own is nothing, Generous God; – what we can gain or keep or have is worthless if it is only for our own satisfaction. All that we have and all that we are belongs to you, and the giving is a blessing in itself. We dedicate this day, not only the things we can put in an offering plate but also the things we cannot touch: our hearts, our spirits, our passion, our resolve. Use them, and us, to restore the fortunes of all your people: to seek your will, to strengthen your church, and to serve you faithfully. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE Jeanine Finefrock

Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

SERMON *A Gift Beyond Measure* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 482 *O Christians, Haste*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: And now, God sends us out into our communities,

People: not to cling to a faded past, but to share all the new things God is doing.

Leader: And now, Jesus calls us to notice those around us,

People: to shower them with hope, to feed them from our deep pantries, to welcome them as family.

Leader: And now, the Spirit anoints us with grace,

People: to make a way through the injustices around us so we might walk with our sisters and brothers into the kingdom springing forth in our midst. Amen.

POSTLUDE *The Strong-Tower-Postlude (A Mighty Fortress)* – Matthias Nagel

The call to worship and benediction are from *Lectionary Liturgies*, Lent 5C, © Thom M. Shuman, and the opening prayer is from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts.

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

First Congregational Church



April 3, 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