

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

May 1, 2022 10:00 AM

Third Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE *Trio no. 1 and 3 opus 49* – Joseph Rheinberger Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Sing, all people of God! Sing the good news:

People: We cry ourselves to sleep and God comes in with the dawn, to awaken us with Joy's embrace.

Leader: Sing, in every land, in every tongue! Sing the good news:

People: when our lives bottom out, God takes us by the hand to lead us into the light.

Leader: Sing, in heaven and on earth! Sing the good news:

People: broken, hopeless, lost - we cry out to God, who hears our hearts.

Leader: Sing, all people of God!

People: We will sing the good news of Easter! To give blessing and honor and glory to God!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Christ, our living Lord, with Easter Sunday past, our “hosannas!” fade along with our Easter lilies. It seems the wonder we experienced at news of your resurrection fades as well. Show us that Easter is not a day of life, but a way of life. Remind us of all who saw you after Easter, and found their lives changed forever. May we be as clear in our vision and our lives be as fruitful with faith. We pray in the name of our Risen Savior, Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 100 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

A TIME TO WONDER *Breathing Threats and Murder* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

MUSICAL OFFERING *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* Chancel Choir
– J. Myrin & M. Redman/arr. Lloyd Larson

Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, worship his holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes. (Refrain)

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger. Your name is great and your heart is kind. For all your goodness, I will keep on singing; ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Refrain)

And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come; still my soul will sing your praise unending ten thousand years and then forevermore! (Refrain)

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. 353 *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*

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)

Thank you, God, for the gifts and ministries of your people. Grant that this offering given in thanksgiving for all the blessings you have given us will fill empty hearts with love and will proclaim your honor and glory in the name of Christ Jesus to all people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-20

Peter Perich

SERMON *Knocked Down and Turned Around*

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 562 *Because He Lives*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Now it is time to get up and go.

People: We will leave in order to follow God into the world.

Leader: Now it is time to enter the brokenness all around us.

People: We will go to bring the healing and peace of Jesus to all.

Leader: Now it is time to bring words of hope and grace to all.

People: The Spirit will give us the words we need in every moment.

POSTLUDE *Fugue* – Felix Mendelssohn

The Benediction is from *Lectionary Liturgies* (c) Thom M. Shuman.

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 30

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

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May 1, 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