

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

May 8, 2022 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE *Song – Ned Rorem* Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We gather in the presence of God,

People: where grieving people and children with skinned knees have their tears wiped away.

Leader: We gather with the people of God,

People: who worship the One who provides what we need, not just what we want.

Leader: We gather around the Font and Table of God,

People: where God pours the living waters upon us, and where God feeds us with grace and wonder.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Call us together, Holy One, from paths of aimless wandering and lead us today toward the community you intend. Weave the fragments of our lives together into a meaningful whole.

Grant us the ability to feel the hunger and thirst of others; then lead your church to make a caring response. May your love fill us and overflow into other lives. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 6 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

A TIME TO WONDER *Simon the Tanner* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

MUSICAL OFFERING *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* Chancel Choir
– J. Janzen & C. Jennings/arr. Peithmann

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace. Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

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. 638 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

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)

Source of all good blessings in our lives: We bring you our gifts with joy but knowing that often our generosity has been regulated by our fears. We live in uncertain times, and we sometimes fear uncertainty, whether our money will last or whether we will find ourselves in need. Help us to trust and have faith in you, that through our giving we will experience new life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Tom Irving
Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17

SERMON *Tabitha the Devoted* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 683 *O For a World*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Gathered for worship, we are now sent to work,

People: to find God in all the broken places and serve with healing and hope.

Leader: Having gathered in silence, we are now sent to speak,

People: to share the words of Jesus about justice and inclusion of all.

Leader: Gathered for prayer, we are now sent to live,

People: to take goodness and mercy and anoint everyone with these gifts of the Spirit.

Leader: Go forth in peace and hope this day, for God is your guardian and guide. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Tokkata in d minor – Max Reger*

The call to worship and benediction is from *Lectionary Liturgies*, Easter 4C, by Thom M. Shuman

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

First Congregational Church



May 8, 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