

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

May 15, 2022 10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE *What Wondrous Love Is This* – arr. John Carter Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Carolyn Keilig

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Jesus has given us a new commandment: to love one another.

People: Just as Christ has loved us, so we ought to have love for one another.

Leader: By this, everyone will know we are Christ's disciples:

People: When we show our love for one another.

Leader: Let us love one another as Christ loved us.

People: Our worship will reflect our love for others.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Gracious God, we were given the great commandment to love one another the way you, the Christ, the Spirit loves us. And yet, the way we love too often becomes conditional.

Transform our hearts as we work to understand one another, creating an earth which reflects God's heaven. Amen.

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

A TIME TO WONDER *The Company You Keep* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

MUSICAL OFFERING *Festive Praise* – Susan E. Geschke Sabbath Bells

PASTORAL PRAYER

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. 527 *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

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)

God of Limitless Love: Your love washes over us like ocean waves, powerful and relentless.

Your love comes to us in what we see in creation, what we taste in the food that sustains us, what we hear in the words of hope and encouragement that we know is your voice speaking through others. We offer our gifts this morning, hoping that they will be used to show the world that we are yours – by our love and not our judgment. May the world know we belong to you by seeing compassion, not condemnation; by seeing love expressed in hope and healing. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35

Grant Dugan

SERMON

A New Commandment

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 494 *They'll Know We Are Christians*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Christ has given us a new commandment:

People: that we love one another, as Christ has loved us.

Leader: By this, everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples, if we share that love with the world.

People: And through this love, all things will be made new.

Leader: Go now and do as Christ commands. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling – arr. Joel Raney

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

First Congregational Church



May 15, 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