

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

May 22, 2022 10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday in Easter

PRELUDE *Allegro molto* from Concerto in C major, RV 533 – Antonio Vivaldi
Akira McDowell and Elsie Munsterteiger, Flutists
& accompanied by Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love!

People: In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair are vanquished.

Leader: In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign!

People: Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!

Leader: Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!

People: Praise be to God.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Gracious God, through a vision you sent forth Paul to preach the gospel and called the women to the place of prayer on the Sabbath. Grant that we may be like Paul and be found like Lydia, our hearts responsive to your word and open to go where you lead us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 27 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

CELEBRATING OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

INVITATION Rev. Carolyn Keilig

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

AFFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

READING OF THE CHURCH COVENANT (see bulletin insert)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus our Christ, we gladly welcome you into this community of faith, enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to your care. In the power of God's Spirit, let us mutually encourage each other to trust God, and strengthen one another to serve the world, that Christ's church may in all things stand faithful.

RECEPTION AND PRAYER

MUSICAL OFFERING *Largo* from Concerto in C major, RV 533 – A. Vivaldi

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. 572 *Take Time to Be Holy*

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)

Holy God, you work wonders beyond our imagination. Thank you for all of the faithful people who have touched our lives and have encouraged us when we were discouraged. Help us to keep growing as disciples led by your Spirit. May we become more devoted to good works and acts of charity, so that others will be blessed in turn. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Janie Shaklee

Acts 16:9-15; John 5:1-9

SERMON *Waiting for a Miracle* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 5 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Our God, who is gracious, sends us out to be a blessing.

People: With our hearts, we will sing God's praises; with our hands, we will serve God's people.

Leader: Jesus, who is our Brother, sends us to be with others.

People: We will comfort all whose hearts are troubled; we will go to help all who cry out to us.

Leader: The Holy Spirit, who is our Advocate, sends us into a broken world.

People: We will work for justice for all who are oppressed; we will teach songs of hope to all who despair.

POSTLUDE *Allegro* from Concerto in C major, RV 533 – A. Vivaldi

The Call to worship is written by Nancy Townley; the opening prayer is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers ©2002 by the Consultation on Common Texts.

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

John 5:1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

First Congregational Church



May 22, 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