

First Congregational Church

July 31, 2022 10:00 AM

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Andante from Sonata for Violin op. 1, 10* – G. F. Handel Adam Peithmann & Lisa Brooke, Violin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: So many things draw us away from God.

People: We are tempted by the goods and products piled on store shelves and how the world measures success.

Leader: Our attention is too often caught by things that provide instant gratification.

People: But Christ calls us to pay attention to things that are rich toward God, getting rid of greed, envy, idolatry.

Leader: We are called to focus our lives on living as God would have us live.

People: We are called to be open to ways of service and compassion.

Leader: In Christ, we are remade in the image of our Creator. Let us worship our God, to whom we all belong.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Generous Giver, you pour forth your extravagant bounty without measure upon your whole creation. Teach us such generosity, that we do not hesitate to offer ourselves and our abundance in service to your world. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 91 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

A TIME TO WONDER *Letting Go* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

MUSICAL OFFERING *Andante from Concerto in A minor* – J. S. Bach

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. 687 *In Christ There is No East or West*

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 infinite grace and patience, we dedicate to you the gifts we offer, while we remember and confess that we have not always been wise in how we’ve used the resources you have entrusted to us. We have bought into the thought that in accumulating money and possessions, we can assure ourselves of living comfortable lives. In doing so, we begin to trust more in ourselves than in you. Remind us as we ask you to bless what we give, that we are in fact the ones blessed in the giving and in the trusting. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, who trusted completely. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Michelle Harrington

SERMON

Enough is Enough

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 606 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: Happy are they who know where the real treasure is to be found.

People: Happy are they who take from the treasure and share it.

Leader: Friends of God, prepare to leave this church with spirits lighter than when you came in;

People: Trusting Christ to take an intimate interest in the costly investment he has made.

People: Invest in others as his love has invested in you;

People: Rejoicing in the fellowship of his Spirit.

Leader: The blessing of the eternal God is upon you: redeeming grace, enfolding love, enduring fellowship. Now and forever. Amen!

POSTLUDE

Allegro from Sonata in D Major op. 1, 13 – G. F. Handel

The benediction is written by Bruce Prewer.

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Colossians 3:1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

First Congregational Church



July 31, 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