

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

August 7, 2022 10:00 AM

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Great is Thy Faithfulness* – arr. Joel Raney Elizabeth Blood

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We trust in God,

People: and so we hope in God.

Leader: We hope in our God,

People: and so we offer our hearts, so our God may fill them with grace.

Leader: Every time, we trust, we hope, we come to God,

People: God is waiting for us . . . every time.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Holy God of limitless surprises, meet us here in this place as we touch that which we cannot see and long for that which we have not yet dared to hope. Help us to remember that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Grant us the faith of those who have walked and lived and honored you before us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 86 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

A TIME TO WONDER *Complete Faith* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

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. 576 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Surely the Presence of the Lord* – arr. Chuck Marohnic

*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)

All it takes is one person, then another, then more, who hear God's hopes, trust God's promises, and have the faith to merge our gifts together, so they can be used to bring hope, healing, grace, and peace to our communities, to our sisters and brothers. This we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Peter Perich

SERMON

Faith or Folly?

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 559 *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Blessed Assurance* – arr. Mark Sedio

The call to worship and prayer of dedication were written by Rev. Thom Schuman from the online website, *Lectionary Liturgies*.

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

First Congregational Church



August 7, 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