



First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 23, 2025 10:00 AM

Third Sunday in Lent & Horton Center Sunday

PRELUDE *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* – Eleanor Whitsett Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 477 *Pass It On*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: We come from the Mountain

People: God calls us to high places to learn, to be transformed, and to be renewed

Leader: We come from the water

People: Jesus showed us how to be like rocks in rivers, causing ripples and necessary disruptions

Leader: We come from the fire

People: The Holy Spirit ignites flames of passion for peace and justice within us

Leader: We come from the sky

All: Let us share God’s agape love with everyone we meet

CENTERING PRAYER (Unison) Tivvi Pare

After each line, take a deep breath in through your nose and out through your mouth.

God of light breezes and blustery gusts, we come to you now for a breath of fresh air. *breathe*

When our schedules are busy and the pace of life feels frantic, we forget that you are as close as the air that fills our lungs. *breathe*

Help us to slow down and appreciate the small things - a kind smile, a helping hand, a tiny bud on the tip of a branch. *breathe*

And once we’ve caught our breath, help guide us on to the trails towards peace, love, and justice. *breathe*

So that we may carry your Word with us wherever we travel, wherever we love, and wherever we breathe. Amen. *breathe*

MUSICAL OFFERING *Draw the Circle Wide* – Mark Miller Chancel Choir
Draw the circle wide. No one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side. Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our song: no one stands alone, standing side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES “What’s in the Bag?” Tivvi Pare
Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY TESTIMONY Rev. Linda Rackliffe

SONG “We Come from the Mountain”

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS Response... “Hear Our 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.

OUR MORNING OFFERING Rev. Christopher Stevens

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)

Merciful God, as we offer these gifts, we remember the longing of Jesus to gather us under his wings like a hen gathers her chicks. May these offerings be a sign of our desire to follow Christ’s example of compassion, seeking the lost and caring for the vulnerable. We give to spread your love and peace to all who are in need, drawing us closer to your embrace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12 Selma Naccach-Hoff

SERMON

“Go Up and Sit”

Tivvi Pare

*CLOSING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine...
All around the world, I’m gonna let it shine...
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...

SENDING PRAYER

Tivvi Pare

One: We cannot stay on the mountain. The Spirit transforms us in these thin places and then sends us out to be agents of change.

All: We will go out from the mountaintop to offer support to the poor in spirit and comfort those who mourn.

One: Jesus calls us to the mountaintop to sit, breathe, listen, and learn.

All: We will go out from the mountaintop and lift up the voices of the meek and those who hunger for righteousness.

One: God sends us out better rested and better equipped than when we arrived.

All: Though we may face obstacles, we will walk with those who seek to make peace in this world.

BENEDICTION

Hymn No. 438 *Shalom Chaverim* (sung in English) Chancel Choir & Congregation

POSTLUDE

Gigue – Douglas E. Wagner

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

First Congregational Church



March 23, 2025

**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