



**First Congregational Church**  
**Our Church in Worship**

April 6, 2025 10:00 AM  
 Fifth Sunday in Lent

\*\*\*\*\*

PRELUDE *Listen to the Lambs* – spiritual/arr. A. Hailstork Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 66 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (Inspired by Psalm 126) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: With our ancestors we recall God's great works

**People: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

Leader: With our ancestors we pray

**People: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Leader: With our ancestors we rejoice

**People: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,**

Leader: Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

**All: Let us worship God, in this community and in the company of our ancestors.**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

**Holy Jesus, you call us to follow you. We want to respond, but our attention flutters. One day we are steady disciples and another day we are distracted by the clamors of the world or by our own needs. Forgive our wavering commitment and make us more reliable disciples. May we each day respond when you beckon, becoming ever more faithful. Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING *The Way of the Cross Leads Home* Chancel Choir  
 – Mary McDonald

I must needs go home by the way of the cross, There's no other way but this; I shall ne'er get sight of the gates of light,  
 If the way of the cross I miss.

Refrain: The way of the cross leads home, (leads home,) It is sweet to know as I onward go, The way of cross leads home.

I must needs go on in the blood sprinkled way, The path that the Savior trod, If I ever climb to the heights sublime, Where the soul is at home with God. [Refrain]

LESSON FOR ALL AGES

*Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.*

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.**

\*HYMN NO. 97 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

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 love as we offer these gifts, we are reminded that without love all of our actions fall short of their true purpose. May this offering be a reflection of the love that never fails. Bless these gifts to spread your love to every heart they touch. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING John 12:1-8 Peter Perich

SERMON "Sometimes You Need to Break a Jar" Rev. Christopher Stevens

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 108 *Lift High the Cross*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in c minor – Felix Mendelssohn

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

\*\*\*\*\*

SCRIPTURE READING

**John 12:1-8** (New Living Translation)

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, <sup>5</sup> "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." <sup>6</sup> Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

**Mark 14:3b** ...a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head.

# First Congregational Church



**April 6, 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*