



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

March 2, 2025 10:00 AM  
 Transfiguration Sunday

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PRELUDE *Bye and Bye* – Spiritual/arr. William Farley Smith Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 623 *Woke Up This Morning* Leo LeBlanc, percussionist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) for Transfiguration Sunday Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: Just a taste of something wonderful,

**People: And a glimpse of something magnificent,**

Leader: Just a glimmer of something holy in something so ordinary.

**People: Yet, enough to know that we are in the presence of God,**

Leader: Enough to cause us to stop and stare in awe,

**People: Enough to stir our hearts in wonder,**

Leader: Enough to set our feet in motion,

**People: And to prompt our voices to sing and shout for joy!**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

**God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING Hallelujah from “Handel’s Messiah: A Soulful Celebration”

– arr. M Warren/M. O. Jackson/M. Kibble

Chancel Choir and  
 Bridget Thornton-Smith, soloist

Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ. And He shall reign forever and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*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. 530 *I’ve Got Peace Like a River*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Sweet Sixteenths, a Concert Rag* – William Albright

\*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)

**Loving God, with grateful hearts, we present this offering to you. As we trust in your goodness and commit our ways to you, we ask that this gift be used to further your work of righteousness and kindness in the world. May it bring hope to the discouraged, support to those in need, and reflect our faith in your promise of a just and abundant life for all who seek you. We dedicate this offering to you in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:3 Vicki Tinsley

SERMON “Don’t Be a Baghead Christian” Rev. Christopher Stevens

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 544 *No, Not One!*

**BENEDICTION**

May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life.  
May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love.  
May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart.  
And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.  
Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen.

**POSTLUDE**      *Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho* – arr. Fela Sowande

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

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**SCRIPTURE READING**

**2 Corinthians 3:12-4:3 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>12</sup> Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. <sup>13</sup> We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. <sup>14</sup> But the people’s minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. <sup>15</sup> Yes, even today when they read Moses’ writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. <sup>16</sup> But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image. <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. <sup>2</sup> We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don’t try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. <sup>3</sup> If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing.

# First Congregational Church



**March 2, 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*