



First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

March 30, 2025 10:00 AM
 Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *Idyll* - David Paxton Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 25 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Let us trust in God and do good,

People: So we can live in our communities in safety.

Leader: Let us commit our ways to God,

People: Because when we trust, God acts.

Leader: Let us be still before God,

People: And wait patiently.

Leader: Let us set aside revenge.

People: Let us not fret.

Leader: God is our refuge in the time of trouble,

People: Our rescuer, our helper, our savior.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Barbara Papagian

God of love. You protect us from evil. Remind us not to be worried about evil-doers, or envious of what they have. We know that the righteous shall live by faith, but the wicked will fade away like the morning dew. You have called us to love our enemies. If they persecute us, let us show love in return. If they slander us may we offer peace and reconciliation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING "Prelude" from Cello Suite no. 3 in C Major BWV 1009
 - J.S. Bach Jan Kolar, Cello

Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Christopher Stevens

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. 340 *Softly and Tenderly*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Largo" from Cello Sonata, op. 65 - F. Chopin

*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 READINGS Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 Pip Adams

SERMON *Welcome Home* Rev. Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 439 *God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata on "Duke Street" - G. Martin

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 37: 1-11 and 39-40 (New Revised Standard Version)

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrong doers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of the cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret – it leads only to evil. For the wicked will be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

First Congregational Church



March 30, 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