

*First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship*

July 14, 2024 10:00 AM

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness* – Johannes Brahms Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

OPENING HYMN NO. 464 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) *Written by John Birch*

Leader: Come, all who are thirsty, says Jesus, our Lord,

People: come, all who are weak,

Leader: taste the living water that I shall give.

People: Dip your hands in the stream,

Leader: refresh body and soul,

People: drink from it,

Leader: depend on it,

People: for this water will never run dry.

All: Come, all who are thirsty says Jesus, our Lord.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) *Written by John van de Laar* Rev. Christopher Stevens

God of Eternal Love, we have made our commitment to you, and have started a new journey into purposeful growth.

But, we know that if we are to remain faithful, we need your help and your strength.

So, we ask ...

Teach us to pray with faith and read your word with understanding.

Teach us to worship with passion and gather together with love.

Teach us to give generously, serve compassionately and use our time mindfully, so that we may reflect your goodness, and that others may discover your grace through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *A Living Prayer* – by Ron Block Bob Ward, soloist

In this world, I walk alone With no place to call my home But there is one who holds my hand

The rugged road through barren lands

The way is dark the road is steep But He's become my eyes to see The strength to climb my

griefs to bear The Savior lives inside me there

In Your love, I find release A haven from my unbelief Take my life and let me be A living prayer

my God to Thee

In these trials of life, I find Another voice inside my mind He comforts me and bids me live Inside

the love the Father gives

In Your love, I find release A haven from my unbelief Take my life and let me be A living prayer

my God to Thee

Take my life and let me be A living prayer my God to Thee

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

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. 581 *Near to the Heart of God*

OUR MORNING OFFERING Rev. Barbara Papagian

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, your heart is wide open to us. You have given to us freely and taught us to return to you a portion of what we have. Grant us glad and generous hearts, and help us be as open to you as you are to us. Help us use your gifts wisely and for the benefit of all your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 6:14-20 Tom Irving

SERMON *The Next Gruesome Summer Netflix Series?* Rev. Christopher Stevens

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata – Douglas E. Wagner

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:14-20 (New Living Translation)

¹⁴ Herod Antipas, the king, soon heard about Jesus, because everyone was talking about him. Some were saying, “This must be John the Baptist raised from the dead. That is why he can do such miracles.” ¹⁵ Others said, “He’s the prophet Elijah.” Still others said, “He’s a prophet like the other great prophets of the past.”

¹⁶ When Herod heard about Jesus, he said, “John, the man I beheaded, has come back from the dead.”

¹⁷ For Herod had sent soldiers to arrest and imprison John as a favor to Herodias. She had been his brother Philip’s wife, but Herod had married her. ¹⁸ John had been telling Herod, “It is against God’s law for you to marry your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹ So Herodias bore a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But without Herod’s approval she was powerless, ²⁰ for Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him. Herod was greatly disturbed whenever he talked with John, but even so, he liked to listen to him.

Mark 6:21-29 (New Living Translation) ²¹ Herodias’s chance finally came on Herod’s birthday. He gave a party for his high government officials, army officers, and the leading citizens of Galilee. ²² Then his daughter, also named Herodias, came in and performed a dance that greatly pleased Herod and his guests. “Ask me for anything you like,” the king said to the girl, “and I will give it to you.” ²³ He even vowed, “I will give you whatever you ask, up to half my kingdom!”

²⁴ She went out and asked her mother, “What should I ask for?” Her mother told her, “Ask for the head of John the Baptist!”

²⁵ So the girl hurried back to the king and told him, “I want the head of John the Baptist, right now, on a tray!”

²⁶ Then the king deeply regretted what he had said; but because of the vows he had made in front of his guests, he couldn’t refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner to the prison to cut off John’s head and bring it to him. The soldier beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a tray, and gave it to the girl, who took it to her mother. ²⁹ When John’s disciples heard what had happened, they came to get his body and buried it in a tomb.

First Congregational Church



July 14, 2024

**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