

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 15, 2024 10:00 AM

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Arietta in F – Johann Pachelbel* Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 272 *The Church's One Foundation*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: In quietness and darkness, in peace and confusion, Jesus Christ is the light of life:

People: He is the hope of the world.

Leader: In him there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant;

People: All are one in Jesus Christ.

Leader: In him there is neither black nor white, neither north nor south;

People: All are one in Jesus Christ.

Leader: In him there is neither male nor female, neither master nor servant;

People: All are one in Jesus Christ.

Leader: He is the light of life:

All: He is the hope of the world.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

God, who was and is and is to yet be, fill our lives this day with overflowing joy. Open our eyes fully to see your goodness and love. Remind us that you are always forgiving and loving. Open our hearts that we might learn even more how to be compassionate and accepting of all humankind. Remind us, too, dear God, through the life of Jesus Christ, that we are to be persons of courage. Empower us to live Christlike lives today and every day. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *10,000 Reasons – J. Myrian & M. Redman/arr. L. Larson* Chancel Choir

Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul; worship his holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning, it's time to sing your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes. (Refrain) You're rich in love and you're slow to anger. Your name is great and your heart is kind. For all your goodness, I will keep on singing; ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Refrain) And on that day

when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come; still my soul will sing your praise unending ten thousand years and then forevermore! (Refrain)

Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.

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. 612 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

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) (Based on Mark 8:27-38)

Father, you challenge us to deny ourselves in order to follow you. We are not accustomed to denying ourselves often. Yet, you call us to give in return for life, to deny ourselves to follow you, to set our minds on divine things rather than human things. Help us in this offertory moment to focus on you as we sacrificially give our gifts and offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:31-38 Allen Pattee

SERMON *Don't Be Chicken* Rev. Christopher Stevens

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

BENEDICTION

There is no glory without the passion; no resurrection without the cross; no new life without death. Friends, go into the week and into the world to follow Christ by losing your life for the sake of gaining his. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in d minor – Johann Pachelbel

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38 (New Living Translation)

³¹ Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

³³ Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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**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