

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

November 10, 2024 10:00 AM
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Idyll* – D. Paxton Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 24 *The God of Abraham Praise*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: We gather to worship God, the Creator and Redeemer.

People: The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Esther, Sarah and Ruth,

Leader: Our refuge and strength in times past, and the Lord of all history.

People: The Father who is with us in all of life,

Leader: Our provider and prompter in the here and now, the Lord of today.

People: The Maker of a new heaven and a new earth, our help and hope for what is to come today and tomorrow.

Leader: Here now in our worship, fill us with strength and purpose.

All: Renew our spirits as we move into the future, always confident and hopeful as people of faith.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

O heavenly God, your Spirit is our source of light, enlightening our paths, erasing our blindness. In our time together with you today, shine your truth. Speak to us boldly once again, that we may proclaim your truth with courage. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *It Is Well with My Soul* – John Ness Beck Chancel Choir

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrow like sea billows roll – whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul. My sin – O the joy of this glorious thought – my sin, not in part, but the whole is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well... And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll: The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend, “Even so” – it is well with my soul! It is well...

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. 576 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

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 of wisdom, we are reminded of your call to examine everything that we have; after all, our money and possessions are really gifts from you. You call us to use them wisely – to share them openly – to give them generously. So thank you for this celebration of giving. Receive this offering and release us from the foolish temptation to believe that it is best spent on ourselves. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Ruth 1:1-5 Lisa Allen

SERMON *Oh No, Not I, I Will Survive* Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 632 *Lead On, O King Eternal*

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, provide light for us in times of darkness, joy in times of sorrow and peace when life seems chaotic and troublesome. Most of all, stay by us as we encounter the challenges of the world that we will face as we leave your house of worship. In our Savior’s name. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Toccata on Ellacombe* – arr. Mark Thallander

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 1:1-5

¹ In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. ² The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there. ³ Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. ⁴ The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Ruth 3:1-5 ¹ One day Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, it's time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. ² Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he's been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. ³ Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don't let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do." ⁵ "I will do everything you say," Ruth replied. ⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor that night and followed the instructions of her mother-in-law.

Ruth 4:13-17 ¹³ So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. ¹⁵ May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!" ¹⁶ Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. ¹⁷ The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

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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