

*First Congregational Church*  
*Our Church in Worship*

June 30, 2024 10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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PRELUDE *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* – arr. Eleanor Whitsett Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

OPENING HYMN NO. 72 *To God Be the Glory*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: God, you seek us out:

**People: In the dead of night**

Leader: And on this bright morning;

**People: In the depths of despair**

Leader: And in the valleys of worry.

**People: Holy One, you shake us from complacency,**

Leader: Wrestling fear from our souls

**People: And caution from our plans.**

Leader: Loving God, you draw near,

**People: As close as our breathing,**

Leader: As present as the beat of our hearts.

**All: Loving God, rejoice at our singing, and welcome our worship.**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

**O God, your graciousness is found in a cool breeze on a warm night; your compassion is seen in the embrace given to a person suffering illness; your joy is noticed in children jumping rope and in the elderly couple holding hands; your peace is felt when we know that we are being lifted up in prayer. You are the song in every singer’s heart; you are the touch in every lover’s embrace; you are the spark in every creative moment. Our hearts long to praise you, and we hope our lives please you. On this day, kindle a memory of joy, light a candle of hope, heal a broken relationship, grant a forgiveness that is deeper than “I’m sorry.” In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING *Ave Maria* (adapted to the First Prelude of J.S. Bach) Martha Davies, violin  
– Charles Gounod/J.S. Bach

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. 339 *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

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)

**Gracious God, knowing that you bring restoration and wholeness to our lives, we surrender all our worries, fears, and burdens at your feet. We offer these gifts with a humble heart that we, too, have the faith to reach out and receive your healing touch. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 130 Janie Shaklee

SERMON *Unforced Errors* Rev. Christopher Stevens

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

BENEDICTION —Based on Colossians 1:11-14

May you be strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has empowered you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. For he has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption and freedom from all that would hold us back. Amen.

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in C Major (“Little”) – J. S. Bach

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

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## SCRIPTURE READING

### **Psalm 130**

<sup>1</sup>From the depths of despair, O Lord,  
I call for your help.

<sup>2</sup>Hear my cry, O Lord.  
Pay attention to my prayer.

<sup>3</sup>Lord, if you kept a record of our sins,  
who, O Lord, could ever survive?

<sup>4</sup>But you offer forgiveness,  
that we might learn to fear you.

<sup>5</sup>I am counting on the Lord;  
yes, I am counting on him.  
I have put my hope in his word.

<sup>6</sup>I long for the Lord  
more than sentries long for the dawn,  
yes, more than sentries long for the dawn.

<sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the Lord;  
for with the Lord there is unfailing love.  
His redemption overflows.

<sup>8</sup>He himself will redeem Israel  
from every kind of sin.

### **Psalm 51:16-17**

<sup>16</sup>You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.  
You do not want a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.  
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

**Matthew 5:23-24** <sup>23</sup>“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

**1 Peter 5:5b** “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

# First Congregational Church



**June 30, 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*