



First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

May 11, 2025 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE “Adagio” from Organ Symphony. No 2 – Charles-Marie Widor Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 10 *Bring Many Names*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: We gather together to honor our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother,
knows us deeply, loves us unconditionally,

People: Teaches us the way we should go,

Leader: And comforts us in times of need,

People: With abundant grace flowing to us,

Leader: A listening ear turned toward us,

People: A generous heart giving us the gifts of beauty and friends,

Leader: A strong arm that helps us up when we fall,

All: These are the gifts of our eternal God and our earthly mothers.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Gracious God, on this day when we celebrate the love within the home, we
remember your love embodied in your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to model our
love after his servant love, which bows down to cradle the vulnerable in hands
that offer a healing and life-giving touch. We pray this in his name. Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING *Never One Thing* – May Erlewine/arr. Corie Brown

Soprano and Alto Choir & Leo LeBlanc, percussion

I’m the underbelly, I am the claw, never one thing, no, not one thing at all. I’m a street
fighter, I’m a prayer for peace, I’m a holy roller, I’m a honey bee. I am the truth, I am the
lie, I am the ground, I am the sky. I am the silence, I am the call, never one thing, no,
not one thing at all. I am hope, I am defeat, I am broken, I am complete. I am the
grace, I am the fall, ever one thing, no, not one thing at all. I am the beggar, I am the
queen, I am the end, I am the means. I am the hammer, I am the wall, never one thing,
no, not one thing at all. I am a victor, I am the loss, I am a profit, I am a cost. I am the

salve, I am the sting, never, no, never, no, never one thing. I am a mother, I am the
child, I am the meek, I am the wild. I am the witch, I am a saint, I am alive, never one
thing. I am the lion, I am the swan, I am the bull, I am the fawn. I am a woman, I am
the ring, I am my own, never one thing.

CELEBRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF BARBARA PAPAGIAN

Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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. 638 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

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)

**God of resurrection and hope, we remember Tabitha and her life of service to
others. May the gifts we set on the altar today reflect her spirit of generosity and
compassion. Use them to raise the brokenhearted and breathe new life into those
in need. Glory be to you, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 9:36-43

SERMON “Celebrating Motherhood” Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 490 *Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant*

BENEDICTION

You have heard the good news: in Christ you are a new creation. Go forth then from this place as a people of faith to serve others as Tabitha did with your good works and acts of charity. May you know that the love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ are with you — always. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Finale” from Organ Symphony no. 2 – Charles-Marie Widor

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:36-43

³⁶ There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. ³⁷ About this time she became ill and died. Her friends prepared her for burial and laid her in an upstairs room. ³⁸ But they had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!" ³⁹ So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other garments Dorcas had made for them. ⁴⁰ But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he showed them that she was alive. ⁴² The news raced through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And Peter stayed a long time in Joppa, living with Simon, a leatherworker.

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May 11, 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