

**First Congregational Church**  
**Our Church in Worship**

October 27, 2024 10:00 AM  
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

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PRELUDE Prelude and Fugue in e minor (“Little”) – J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 17 *O Worship the King*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) - St. Benedict (480-547) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: O Gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you,

**People: Intelligence to understand you,**

Leader: Give us diligence to seek you,

**People: Patience to wait for you,**

Leader: Give us eyes to see you, and a heart to meditate on you.

**All: And give us, O God, a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

(William Temple [1881-1944], Archbishop of Canterbury)

**O Lord Jesus Christ, you prayed for your disciples that they might be one, even as you are one with the Father; draw us to yourself that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another, in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING Prelude in Classic Style – G. Young/arr. L. Smith Elizabeth Blood, piano

*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. 80 *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Pamela LeBlanc

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)

**Redeeming Lord, we continually seek your comfortable refuge. You deliver us from our unfounded fears and provide us with miraculous examples of your love. In response, we offer these gifts. We pray that these funds will provide an outreach that warms people with your resplendent love. As a church community, we exalt and praise your holy name. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Job 23:3-4, 7 Ellie Stetson

SERMON *Though He Slay Me, Yet Will I Trust in Him* Rev. Christopher Stevens

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 556 *Trust and Obey*

BENEDICTION

You may fall, but God will pick you up;  
You may fail, but God will succeed;  
You may be wounded, but God will heal the wounds.  
But you may soar like an eagle, and God will be the wind beneath your wings;  
You just might move mountains, and God will be your strength;  
You may build castles in the air, and God will provide the foundation.  
Go now with God’s presence to enjoy the possibilities! Amen.

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

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

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## SCRIPTURE READING

### **Job 23:3-4, 7 (New International Version)**

<sup>3</sup> If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling!

<sup>4</sup> I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments...

<sup>7</sup> There the upright can establish their innocence before him, and there I would be delivered forever from my judge.

### **Job 30:25-26 (New International Version)**

<sup>25</sup> Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?

<sup>26</sup> Yet when I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, then came darkness.

### **Job 33:9-10 (New International Version)**

<sup>9</sup> I am pure, I have done no wrong; I am clean and free from sin.

<sup>10</sup> Yet God has found fault with me; he considers me his enemy.

### **Job 38 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>1</sup> Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind:

<sup>2</sup> "Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words?"

<sup>3</sup> Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.

<sup>4</sup> "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.

### **Job 40:2-5 (New Living Translation)**

<sup>2</sup> "Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are God's critic, but do you have the answers?" <sup>3</sup> Then Job replied to the Lord, <sup>4</sup> "I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers? I will cover my mouth with my hand.

<sup>5</sup> I have said too much already. I have nothing more to say."

### **Job 42:3b, 6 (New International Version)**

<sup>3</sup> Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know...

<sup>6</sup> Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

### **John 9:1-3 (New International Version)**

<sup>1</sup> As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

# First Congregational Church



**October 27, 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*