

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

September 29, 2024 10:00 AM
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Allegretto and Andantino* - H. Schroeder Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

*OPENING HYMN NO. 86 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: It's a great day to be here!

People: There are so many things we can do to serve the Lord.

Leader: Just listen to God's call to you. Let God guide your life.

People: We are willing to open our lives to God's service.

Leader: Come, Let's worship and celebrate God's good news for us.

People: Let us bring our hopes and prayers to God with joy. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Barbara Papagian

O God, you are greater than the most powerful sources in this world. Breathe in us your calmness, enabling us to be still and know that you are God. You answer our prayers even through the storms of our lives. You breathe into us your strength and comfort, guiding us in the midst of our storms. We ask you, O God, to help us be peacemakers in our homes, communities, and world. We pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Malagueña* - E. Lecuona Peter Zsofka, pianist

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

PASTORAL PRAYER
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. 566 *Be Still, My Soul*

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Dan McKenney

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, you are the giver and provider of all things. We give thanks for who you are and what you have given. We ask that this offering will honor your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Carol Soucy

SERMON *Esther, it could be a soap opera* Rev. Barbara Papagian

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 450 *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Poco Vivace* - H. Schroeder

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

¹ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” ³ Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” ⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” ⁶ Esther said, “A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” ¹⁰ So they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹ enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²² as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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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