

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

July 7, 2024 10:00 AM

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *The Entertainer* – Scott Joplin Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

OPENING HYMN NO. 475 *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Based on 1 Corinthians 12

Leader: We have been called together as the body of Christ.

People: We are one body, though we have many members.

Leader: Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, and not the other way around.

People: But not all members have the same function; we have different gifts.

Leader: God calls us to use these gifts generously, maturely and cheerfully to build up the body of Christ.

All: Together we present ourselves in service to God and each other. Let us glorify God in all we do!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

Holy Spirit, what beautiful gifts you have given us! We are a diverse, but unified, body of believers. We are unique yet, even in our differences, we are one. Let us celebrate the gifts you have given each brother and sister here. We need each other, and so we ask you to help us love and support one another. Use each person here to further your kingdom and the gospel. We are your hands, feet, head, heart and more. Let us serve, walk, guide, love and follow. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING God Bless America from “Ronan Tynan – The Dawning of the Day”
– Irving Berlin Allen Pattee, soloist

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that’s free. Let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn pray’r. God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above. From the mountains to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home.

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. 720 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

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)

Powerful God, multiply these gifts so that our faith community is empowered to minister to the needs of your children. In today’s Gospel reading, you remind us to be minister to our family, friends, and one another. We are secure in knowing that by serving our brothers and sisters locally and globally, we serve you faithfully. Accept these gifts, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 6:1-13 Liz Verity

SERMON *How Many Arms Does Jesus Have? Ask a Starfish.* Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 480 *I Love to Tell the Story*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Maple Leaf Rag* – Scott Joplin

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:1-13 (New Living Translation)

¹He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house." ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff: no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Colossians 1:18 (New Living Translation) ¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

1 Corinthians (New Living Translation) 12:12, 27 ¹²The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ... ²⁷All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

First Congregational Church



July 7, 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