



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

March 9, 2025 10:00 AM  
First Sunday in Lent

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PRELUDE “Prélude” from *24 Pieces in Free Style* – Louis Vierne Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 64 *We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.”

**People:** Let us be grounded in God!

Leader: Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

**People:** Let us be filled by God!

Leader: Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

**People:** Let us listen to God!

Leader: Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

**All:** Let us share God together, in this place!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

**O God, we come before you with grateful hearts, reflecting on the gifts you have so graciously given us. Just as the Israelites brought their first fruits as an offering of thanksgiving, we, too, bring our lives, our time and our resources to you in humble gratitude. May we never forget that every blessing we enjoy comes from your hand. Teach us to live with open hearts, giving freely of ourselves, trusting in your continued provision. Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING *Come to the Table* – J. Koerts Chancel Choir & Leo LeBlanc, percussionist

Come to the table of grace; come and remember our Lord. He came from heaven to die in our place, passion and love he outpoured.

Refrain: Come to the table, remember his hands and his side. Come to the table.

Remember our Lord, crucified.

Come to the table of hope; trust in his unchanging care. He is our refuge, our fortress, our strength, rest from eternal despair. (Refrain)

Come to the table of love. Come lay your burden on him. He waits with arms open wide. O what a Savior and friend! (Refrain)

*Those involved with Sunday Friends may leave for their activity.*

DEDICATION OF OUR NEW PEW BIBLES

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Barbara Papagian

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.**

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Little Swing Fugue* – arr. Matthias Nagel

\*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)

**Recognizing that all that we have comes from you, God, we give back to you the first and best of what we have received. Use these gifts, and our lives, to feed and nourish, spreading your love where it is most needed.**

SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 26:1-5a, 10-11a Liz Verity

SERMON “NFL Lent” Rev. Christopher Stevens

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*Everyone who sincerely desires a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ is welcome to join in this Sacrament celebrated with juice and bread (rice cakes for those with wheat sensitivity). We hold the bread and the cup and commune in unity.*

\*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 419 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

CALL TO COMMUNION AND COMMUNION PRAYER  
SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Music During Distribution: "Eat This Bread" and "The Lord is My Song" – Taizé  
Chancel Choir; Susan Wilkes, Flute and Sipra Kolar, Soloist

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**Thank you, merciful God, for the bounty of your creation — for the gifts of the field and vine that nourish our bodies, souls and hearts. Sustained by this meal and the assurance of your grace through our Lord, Jesus Christ, may our lives reflect your presence and may you be our priority. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 622 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

BENEDICTION

Friends, God knows your spiritual hungers and wants to feed you. As you are fed, go into the world to share with others. May you trust that the blessings of God go with you this day and always. Go in peace, Amen.

POSTLUDE *Poco Vivace* – Hermann Schroeder

\*You are invited to stand if you wish.

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SCRIPTURE READING

**Deuteronomy 26:1-5a, 10-11a**

<sup>1</sup> "When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession and you have conquered it and settled there, <sup>2</sup> put some of the first produce from each crop you harvest into a basket and bring it to the designated place of worship—the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored. <sup>3</sup> Go to the priest in charge at that time and say to him, 'With this gift I acknowledge to the Lord your God that I have entered the land he swore to our ancestors he would give us.' <sup>4</sup> The priest will then take the basket from your hand and set it before the altar of the Lord your God. <sup>5</sup> "You must then say in the presence of the Lord your God, ... <sup>10</sup> 'And now, O Lord, I have brought you the first portion of the harvest you have given me from the ground.' Then place the produce before the Lord your God, and bow to the ground in worship before him. <sup>11</sup> Afterward you may go and celebrate because of all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household...

# First Congregational Church



**March 9, 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*