

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

July 21, 2024 10:00 AM

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Adagio* - F. Mendelssohn Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

OPENING HYMN NO. 5 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Here we have gathered as God's people, inspired by the Spirit ...

People: To witness more effectively,

Leader: To listen more deeply,

People: To speak more truthfully,

Leader: To live more peacefully,

People: To love more energetically,

Leader: To pray more seriously,

People: To worship more enthusiastically,

Leader: To celebrate more joyfully,

People: To sing more faithfully,

Leader: to serve more compassionately.

All: Inspire us, Spirit, to be all that we can be!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

Holy God, send some companions

who can look in a pained face and not turn away,

who can look at bruises and scars and not pull back,

who can hear anger and rage and not run away,

who can touch a fragile body with tenderness and not pity,

who can stay through the dark nights and shadowed days.

Holy God, touch us and use us to be the neighbor, the friend to those in need. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *O Rest in the Lord* - F. Mendelssohn/arr. H. Geisler Terri Pattee, handbells

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. 353 *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*

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)

Glorious God, we like to practice random acts of kindness. Your Word even confirms that we further your kingdom when we show kindness and compassion to another person. We pray that Jesus' life and teaching may be our example for sharing intentionally our talents, prayers, time, and offerings. We humbly give this offering as an expression of our faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 Craig Finefrock

SERMON *The (Com)Passion of the Christ* Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 73 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

BENEDICTION

As we go forth, may we sense God's great Spirit going with us.

As we go forth, may we take the Good News to the poor, the lonely, those in prison, those in nursing homes, those who are discouraged, and those in need of a smile and touch of love and affirmation. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Fuga* - F. Mendelssohn

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then Jesus said, “Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat.

³²So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. ³³But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. ³⁴Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

⁵³After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret. They brought the boat to shore ⁵⁴and climbed out. The people recognized Jesus at once, ⁵⁵and they ran throughout the whole area, carrying sick people on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶Wherever he went—in villages, cities, or the countryside—they brought the sick out to the marketplaces. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed.

Matthew 20:29-34 ²⁹As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. ³⁰Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” ³¹The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” ³²Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. ³³“Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.” ³⁴Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Mark 1:40-41 ⁴⁰A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. “If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,” he said. ⁴¹Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!”

First Congregational Church



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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