

First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

October 6, 2024 10:00 AM
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Let Us Break Bread Together* – arr. A. Zabel Adam Peithmann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Rev. Barbara Papagian

Leader: Deep within, a living spring,

People: A connection to the source of grace,

Leader: A link to the flow of power,

People: A swell in the stream of blessing.

Leader: This day, know that the living water flows within you.

All: We will rejoice. We will be glad. We will be nourished.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison) Rev. Christopher Stevens

Lord God, you are the one who never sleeps, for whom the long watches of the night are like day and the darkness is like the noonday sun. Lord, we remember your words that your eye is on the sparrow, and none lives or dies without your awareness. Watch over us and may we know and sense you are watching us. Give us a quiet strength and confidence that you are near. O God, who never sleeps, be with us in our waking and our sleeping. Nourish, comfort, and refresh us this day and in the hours that lie ahead. All this we pray in the name of the risen Jesus, who takes every dark and troubled moment and changes it into amazing new possibilities. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 16 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Special Olympics Young Athletes

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)

Heavenly Father, we often hear that children are a gift from God. Knowing that each person is created with unique fingerprints and DNA, we are reminded that we, too, are your gift to others. You have given us this gift of life and our many possessions. During these offertory moments, we joyfully and faithfully return this money that ultimately belongs to you. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Job 1:1, 6-22 Michelle Harrington

SERMON *Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good Deer?* Rev. Christopher Stevens

MUSICAL OFFERING *Come to the Table* – Allen Pote Chancel Choir & Leo LeBlanc, percussion

Refrain: Come to the table and bring your joy bring all your gladness and come to the table. Eat this bread, drink the wine, come rejoice in the Lord. Bring all your sorrow, bring all your pain, bring all the heartaches you bear. Bring who you are and hope to become, come to the table to share (Refrain). Share in the bread, share in the wine, share in the risen Lord. Share as a family, one in community, one in the name of the Lord (Refrain).

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.

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

COMMUNION MUSIC *Eat this Bread and Jesus, Remember Me* Susan Wilkes, Flute
– Taizé

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**Heavenly Father, you gave your Son to die and raised him to give us eternal life.
Grant that we who have received his body and blood may live in him and serve
you as your children. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 422 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

BENEDICTION

According to Jesus, those whom God seems to have forgotten have received special blessing. For Christians, blessing may be found among those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are meek. Go now, knowing that God blesses you, to seek and share God's blessing with those in need. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* – arr. J. Behnke

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

First Congregational Church



October 6, 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