



First Congregational Church
Our Church in Worship

October 19, 2025 10:00 AM
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE *Adagio* – Frank Bridge Daniel Moriarty

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Christopher Stevens

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) —Inspired by Psalm 66

Leader: All you looking for comfort,

People: Find it here the arms of a loving God.

Leader: All you looking for direction,

People: Find it here the hand of God to guide you.

Leader: All you hoping to end loneliness,

People: Find it here the embrace of God and new friends.

Leader: All you searching for meaning,

People: Find it here the Lord of the Life and the Revealer of Truth.

Leader: All you seeking happiness,

All: Find it here the deep joy of Christ and the lasting peace of forgiveness.

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of the wind, we ask that the Spirit may fall upon us, to bring us that refreshing and renewing rain of your grace. Rest upon us, O Spirit of wisdom and understanding, Spirit of counsel and might, Spirit of knowledge and of inspiration! For with you is plenty of peace and joy and power. Come, Holy Spirit. Glorify God in us. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *My Eyes for Beauty Pine* Chancel Choir

– text by Robert Bridges and music by Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for God's grace.

No other care nor hope is mine, to heaven I turn my face.

One splendor thence is shed from all the stars above.

'Tis named when God's name is said. It's love, it's heavenly love.

And every gentle heart that burns with true desire is lit from eyes that mirror part of that celestial fire.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

*HYMN NO. 477 *Pass It On*

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Lindsey Goodrich

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Fifteen Pieces*, "How Fair and Pleasant art Thou" – Marcel Dupré

*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)

God of grace, thank you for the countless blessings we have received from your hand. Like the one leper who returned to thank Jesus, we too offer our gifts with grateful hearts. May these gifts remind us of your great mercy and inspire us to live lives full of thankfulness, praise, and service. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Timothy 1:3-14 Rev. Linda Rackliffe

SERMON "Parting Words in the Living Years" Rev. Christopher Stevens

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 458 *Ours the Journey*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Voluntary in A* – David Johnson

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 1:3-14

³ Timothy, I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestors did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ I long to see you again, for I remember your tears as we parted. And I will be filled with joy when we are together again. ⁵ I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. ⁶ This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. ⁸ So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, either, even though I'm in prison for him. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News. ⁹ For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. ¹¹ And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News. ¹² That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return. ¹³ Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.

1 Timothy 1:2 ² I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith.

Acts 16:1-3 ¹ Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. ² Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, ³ so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek.

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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