

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
September 26, 2021

Those who are able may stand where marked (*).

Ministry of the Acolyte

Gathering Music #405 “I Love Thy Kingdom Lord”

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer *Mary Menzies*

Prelude

Responsive Reading *Based on Psalm 84*

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of light and glory!

All: My soul longs, yes, my soul faints for your courts.

One: Even the sparrow finds a nesting place beneath your altars;
the swallow finds a place to raise her young.

**All: Happy are those who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.**

One: Happy are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are like highways home.

**All: The desert is watered by springs where they walk;
the dry land is nourished with rain.**

One: A day in your courts is better by far
than a thousand days anywhere else.

**All: It is better to serve as a gatekeeper here
than to lounge in the tents of the wicked.**

One: For you are my sun, and you are my shield;
you pour out your blessings upon us.

**All: You pour out your blessings abundantly
on those who do right, who trust in you.
How lovely is your dwelling place, God!
We praise you: Halleluiah!**

We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer (trespasses)

Special Music

We Dedicate our Gifts
*Doxology (#815)
Offering prayer

Old Testament Reading Haggai 1:2-11 *Mary Menzies*

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:16-19 *Mary Menzies*

New Testament Reading Revelation 21:1-4 *Mary Menzies*

*Hymn #314 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

Sermon “What Is This Thing we Call Church?” *Ernest Shipman*

*Hymn #375 “Jesus Shall Reign”

*Benediction

*Response # 403 “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” *vs. 1-3*

Postlude

We welcome Ernest Shipman to the pulpit this week.

*Scriptures for Sunday, October 3: Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24,
Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12 and Mark 10:2-16*

Please note: Our guest leader, Rev. Jay Sprout, may or may not use these texts.

Neighbors In Need – Special Offering, October 3rd

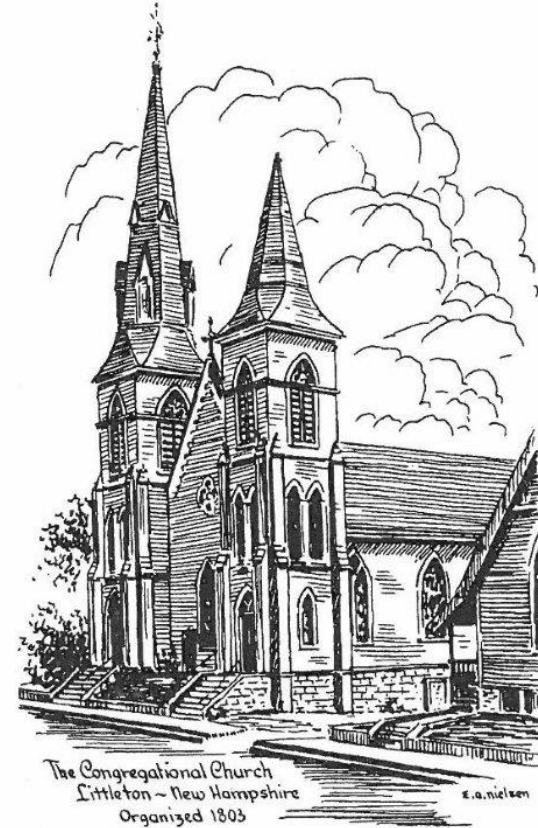


In 2021, NIN is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities.



*Thank you for joining us for worship today!
It is our sincere hope that all who gather in
this place will know and experience the love,
forgiveness, hope, and new life available
through Jesus Christ.*

*First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Littleton, New Hampshire
September 26, 2021*



Welcome:
Ernest Shipman
Music Director & Organist
Dorothy Morton
Worship Service 10:00

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Our Mission Statement:

As followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are called to provide a loving invitation and welcome to all, to inspire and uplift through the worship of God, to reach out to heal and enrich lives through the Holy Spirit, and to nurture people at various stages of their spiritual growth.

Online Giving <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR4H/home>