

**Order of Worship for  
October 4, 2020  
The First Congregational Church of Hanover  
The Rev. Dr. John A. Terry, Interim Pastor  
Mr. Chad Weirick, Minister of Music**

**Words of Welcome**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship:** (based on Psalm 19)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**Invocation**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Scripture Introduction**



**Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 21:33-46 (The Message translation)

<sup>33-34</sup> “Here’s another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.

<sup>35-37</sup> “The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third, but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. ‘Surely,’ he thought, ‘they will respect my son.’

<sup>38-39</sup> “But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’ They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

<sup>40</sup> “Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?” <sup>41</sup> “He’ll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance,” they answered. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it’s time.” <sup>42-44</sup> Jesus said, “Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone. This is God’s work; we rub our eyes; we can hardly believe it! “This is the way it is with you. God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed.”

<sup>45-46</sup> When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

### **\*Gloria Patri**

(Children can leave for an activity)

#### **Hymn:** *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, Like the first dew-fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

#### **Sermon:** *Harvest Judgment*

#### **Passing of the Peace**

#### **Hymn:** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does his successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till morn shall wax and wane no more.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns; the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,  
The weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blessed.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His Name.

#### **Signs of Friendship and Peace**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

#### **Invitation to the table**

#### **Prayer of consecration**

#### **Sharing of the Elements**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Offering**

#### **The Doxology**

#### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**