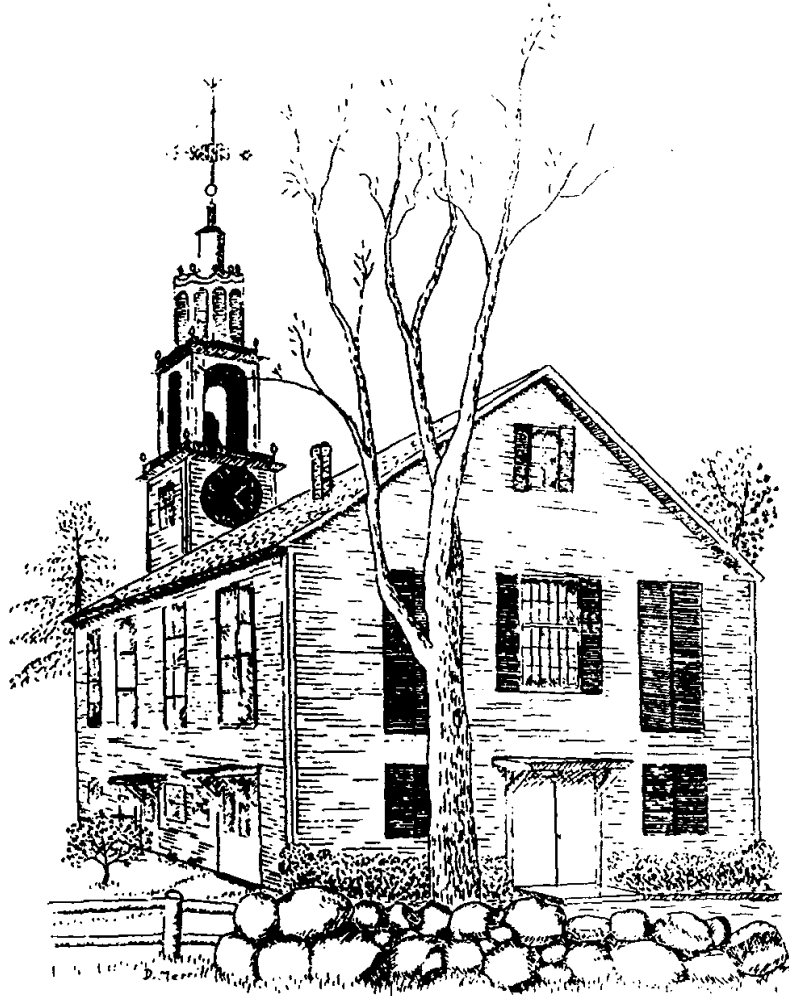


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

November 30, 2014 Advent Year 1B



Doris Merrill

ALL ARE WELCOME

*“Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God.
Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips,
and offer God today your love and your service.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

November 30, 2014 First Sunday of Advent Year B

Christmas Caroling

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Lighting of the Advent Candle: First Sunday of Advent: Hope - with help from Dave and Kathy Barlow

One: Advent season reminds us that we live by hope.

All: Hope in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah...

One: The promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation...

All: The expected one who will establish justice for all who are in need...

One: The liberator who will free us from our estrangement...

All: For the Messiah will bring a new day for all God's people. We await the day of salvation, of justice and of liberation. We await the day where all people will proclaim God's goodness and will know the fulfillment of God's will for all the creation.

*HYMN NO. 345

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Awaken to a season of anticipation.

All: We gather in God's house to hear of hope!

One: God calls us to hopeful celebration.

All: Let us hear and be blessed with hope, this hour, this day, this week.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

God of hope, whose ways are not our own and whose coming among us cannot be predicted, we dare to welcome your surprises, seeking to be awake and alert to fully embrace the unexpected, that we might be changed by your appearing and transformed into a peaceful, loving community, for the sake of your house. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE NO. 759 **Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit - Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Hymn No. 138

Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

In our thanks, these gifts we bring, for you give us everything. Teach us how to follow you, in all we say, and all we do. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (insert)

Emily Kate Barry, Sarah Anne Barry, Hannah Barlow Roy and Owen David Roy

Followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. 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. 325 Child of Blessing

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

CHOIR ANTHEM
EPISTLE
GOSPEL
SERMON

"Hope, Joy, Peace and Love"
I Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37
"Alpha and Omega"

Joseph Martin
(N.T. p. 173)
(N.T. pp. 51-52)
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (Based on Psalm 80)

Give ear, O God, stir up your might,
and come to save us from our jealous insecurities!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
That we may be saved from coveting the advantages that others enjoy.**

O God of heavenly hosts, how long will you allow violence to reign -
Black neighbor against white neighbor: racism laughing in its power over us?

**Restore us, O God of heavenly hosts; let your face shine,
That we may be saved from the ridiculous idea that skin color matters.**

O Lord God of heavenly hosts, let your hand of justice be upon us;
let your heart of kindness be what rules us.

**Restore us, O Lord God of heavenly hosts; let your face shine,
That we may be saved from our lack of hope, our lack of strength.**

O Prince of Peace, born in misery into a dark world
Let your Presence be known to us and through us.

**Restore us, O Prince of Peace, to the light you imagine for us
That we may be saved from the darkness within us.**

O Heavenly God of Love Divine, allowing yourself to know our pain
Let your compassion and your love teach us how to love.

**Restore us, Heavenly God of Love Divine; let your face shine,
That we may be saved from the world's darkness, entering into your light.**

PASTORAL PRAYER
CHORAL RESPONSE

"Come to Me"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION We are stewards of God's household, managers of the earth's treasures
for a little while. Let us give generously of ourselves.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780 **Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here
below; Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Thank you, God, for the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need.
Thank you for prospering our work and witness. We seek to walk in your light
and follow the pathways where you lead. We want to share the good news of
salvation through these gifts and by the way we live. May all your people be
ready for Christ's coming. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

*HYMN NO. 101

“Comfort, Comfort O My People”

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Christ, be our Light”

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

Welcome Visitors! As members of the United Church of Christ we say: “No matter **who** you are or **where** you are on life’s journey, **you** are welcome here! We mean it!” Please introduce yourself to an usher and come meet Pastor Deborah.

If you would like information about our church or would like to be added to our mailing list, please fill out a bright yellow “How May We Serve You”/ “Communication Options” card located in the pews and at the back of the Sanctuary. We also have cards available in the church office. Thank you for worshipping with us. We are blessed to have you with us today.

First Parish Congregational MISSION STATEMENT: This is who we are!

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,

is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education.

In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others.

In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

Members of the Congregation

Cyndi Gray and Reni Harnden

Cyndi Gray

Ken Gould, Bill Burke

Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Michael Bryan

David and Lorie McGrath

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Rev. Chester R. Ham

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Lindsey Roman

Julie Daysa

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

AFFILIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

OFFICE MANAGER

NEWSLETTER/CE CONSULTANT

First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ

PO BOX 114, 47 East Derry Rd East Derry, NH 03041 Tel. 603.434.0628 Fax. 603.437.3001

Office Manager: Lindsey Roman Email: officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Office Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri: 9:00-3:00pm; Thurs 10:30-6:00

Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc



Scriptures – November 30

I Corinthians 1.3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13.24-37

24 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'