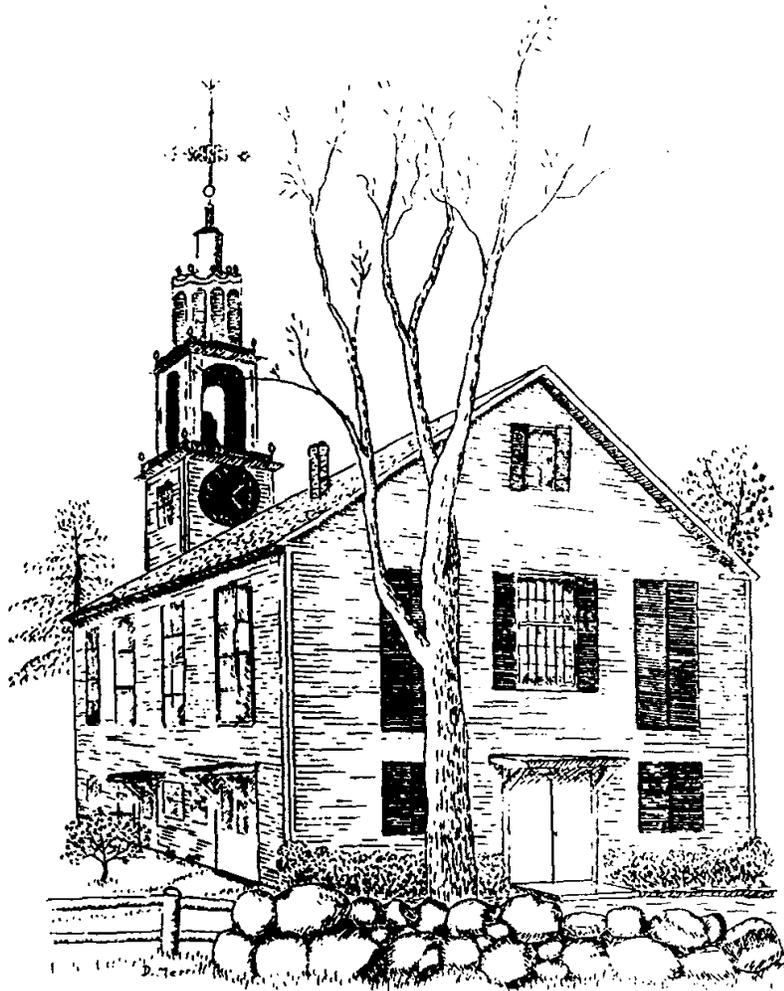


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**November 9, 2014**



*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 9, 2014      “PROPER 27”**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS (Reni Harnden)

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

\*HYMN NO. 24

*“The God of Abraham Praise”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Davis

One: Let our worship of the one true God be genuine.

**All: We seek to know God and to rejoice before our Creator.**

One: Our hope is in God’s grace beyond all judgment.

**All: Let us respond with faithful service.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**God of our ancestors, be our God today as we gather in sincerity and faithfulness to honor you. Attune our hearts to your guiding light. Declare your Word to us so we may be inspired to obey. We know that we must decide each day whether or not we will serve you. Make your dwelling place with us here. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE NO. NO. 756

**Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo  
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia**

(You may be seated.)

**WE INVITE FORWARD GOD’S LITTLE CHILDREN**

CHILDREN’S OFFERING

Hymn No. 31

*“All Things Bright and Beautiful”*

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.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Sue Handy

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.**

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US**

CHOIR ANTHEM

*“Keep Your Lamps!”*

Arr. Thomas

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Psalm 78:1-7

(O.T. p. 594)

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

(N.T. pp. 28-29)

REFLECTION

Dave McGrath

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND PRAYERS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT          Diana Roman

STEWARDSHIP LITANY          Margie Ives

One: The world says, "Buy and accumulate things."

**Many: God's Word says, "Life is not made up of how much a person has." (Luke 12:15)**

One: The world says, "Wealth is our security."

**Many: God's Word says, "I will say about the Lord,  
'He is my place of safety.'" (Ps. 91:2)**

One: The world says, "We deserve the best."

**Many: God's Word says, "The Lord blesses us with favor and honor. He doesn't hold back anything good from those whose lives are without blame." (Ps. 84:11)**

One: The world says, "Give so that you may obtain favors and praise from others."

**Many: God's Word says, "Lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then you will receive a lot in return." (Luke 6:35)**

One: The world says, "Gratify yourself in every way."

**Many: God's Word says, "Let Christ's word live in you like a rich treasure. ... Do everything you say or do in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

**Always give thanks to God the Father through Christ."**

\*HYMN NO. 565

*"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" (v.1 & 2)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: (Based on James 5:13-16)          Diana Sweeney

One: Is anyone among you in trouble?      **Many: Let them pray.**

One: Is anyone happy?                      **Many: Let them sing songs of praise.**

One: Is anyone among you sick?          **Many: Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.**

One: And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.

**Many: If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.**

One: Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

**Many: The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

BIDDING PRAYER: The Worship Leader will invite all to pray using a category. Where it is written "*People's offered prayers*" you are invited to prayerfully **offer to GOD** the names of those for who you wish to pray. Remembering that as we offer these names to our Heavenly Creator, we need not wait our turn to speak. Unlike announcements that need to be heard by each individual, we offer prayers to a God who hears all. We may say out loud the name or names, or utter them silently. )

Let us pray for the churches everywhere, for all of its people, and especially for those who work and minister in the church. (*People's offered prayers*)

Let us pray for the needs of the world, for those who lead the nations, and for this nation. (*People's offered prayers*)

Let us pray for all those who wake each day to the sounds and horrors of war. (*People's offered prayers*)

Let us pray for people facing all situations requiring hospitalization. (*People's offered prayers*)

Let us pray for the poor, the needy, and the sick. (*People's offered prayers*)

Let us pray for ourselves and others to face the promise of life with courage and to face evil with the goodness God gives us.

(*People's offered prayers*)

**Holy One, You offer life to every creature and challenge us to work toward making peace a reality in our day. Help us not just to believe, but to translate belief into faithful living; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, Amen.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Be Still & Know That I Am God"*

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

How will our neighbors be prepared for times of crisis? Who will teach them where to find oil for their lamps? Who will help them discover spiritual riches more valuable than all their material possessions? Our church is a resource, and our ministry is for the whole world. Let us give our financial support.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #785

We give You but Your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Yours alone, we give it gratefully.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 312

*"We Love Your Realm, O God"*

BLESSING

BLESSING RESPONSE

*"Go Now in Peace"*

POSTLUDE

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

#### **First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ**

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## Scriptures – November 9

### Psalm 78

A Maskil of Asaph.

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,

<sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.

<sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.

<sup>5</sup> He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,

which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;

<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,

and rise up and tell them to their children,

<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;

### Matthew 25.1-13

<sup>25</sup> Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." <sup>12</sup> But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.