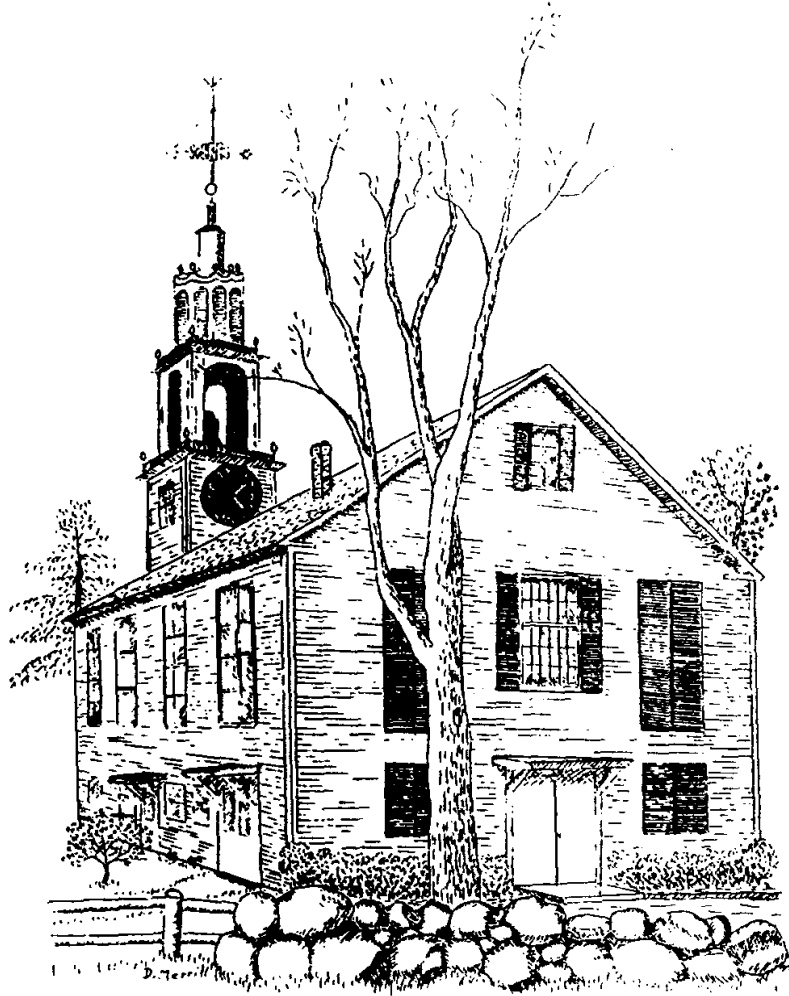


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

January 11, 2015



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)

January 11, 2015 First Sunday after Epiphany
(Baptism of Jesus)

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*HYMN NO. 597

"Shall We Gather by the River"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The loving voice of God created all worlds.

All: Ascribe to our God all glory and strength.

One: Let us come together to remember our own baptism.

All: Let us gather to celebrate God's gifts.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

In the beginning, O God, you fashioned a universe. Each star and planet had its beginning in you. Out of the void, you brought light and life. Through eons of creativity, you have acted, and today we are here, inheritors of an amazing process, tiny specks in the limitless reaches of time and space. And you are here, waiting to greet us. As you acted in our baptism, you are acting still to make all things new within us and among us. Let your light awaken us and your Spirit empower us for faithful living. 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.**

(You may be seated.)

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Introduction of Pastor Heidi

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5

(O.T. p.1)

GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

(N.T. p. 35)

SERMON

A Startling Presence

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Take Me To Higher Ground"

Strohm

WE RESPOND IN MEMBERSHIP

New Members will be invited forward and introduced.

A member of Council will interview the candidates for membership.

(Following the interview questions, a Deacon will lead the welcome of our new members:)

Deacon: Let us, the members of First Parish Congregational United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ:

We, then, the members of this church, extend to you a Christian welcome, and do heartily receive you into the fellowship of this church.

We desire to share with you its responsibilities and privileges, its sacrifices and rewards.

We pledge to you Christian sympathy and concern.

We promise to walk with you in the ways of loving service, to be jealous of your good name, and to hold your peace and welfare as our own.

God grant that loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared, while we dwell together on earth, for the perfect fellowship that is above.

Deacon: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) Let us pray:

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

And all God's people say: "Amen" as they stand and applaud.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS

SPECIAL GUEST: THE REV. DR. DAVID REYNOLDS from Pastoral Counseling Services

AFFIRMATION OF COVENANT (Insert)

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Come to Me"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

In thanksgiving for all we have received, we enlist in the ministry Christ demonstrated and inspired. We have nothing apart from God's gifts. We have everything when we allow God's Spirit to work through us. This offering demonstrates the depth of our awareness.

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**

Mighty God, you have given us everything we have. You have granted us life. You have poured out abiding love on our behalf. You have made us rich...

(A moment of silence)

We share out of this awareness, and because we care. Bless our gifts to do the work you intend. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 539 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?” (vs 1,2,3)

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Christ, Be Our Light”

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

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.

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 worshiping with us. We are blessed to have you with us today.

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

Members of the Congregation
Steve Davis and Pat Plouff
Pat Plouff
Ken Gould, Bill Burke
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason
Michael Bryan
Mark Pingree and Nancy Magee
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff Delangie
Lindsey Roman
Heidi Heath
Julie Daysa

GREETER(s)
PASTOR
AFFILIATE PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
CE DIRECTOR
NEWSLETTER/CE CONSULTANT

First Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ
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Office Manager: Lindsey Roman Email: officemgr@fpc-ucc.org
Office Hours: Tues, Wed & Fri: 9:00-4:00pm; Thurs 10:30-6:00
Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and ‘friend us’ on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc



Scriptures – January 11

Genesis 1.1-5

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1.4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved;with you I am well pleased.’

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY

Leader

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates a particular ministry in the life of the greater church in a particular setting in the life of the world.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

PEOPLE

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Leader

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

PEOPLE

The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Leader

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

PEOPLE

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Leader

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

PEOPLE

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

PRESENTATION

COVENANT

Examination of the Covenant Ministry

Pastor Deborah

Members of First Parish: you have heard the promises of our brother in Christ who has answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with Pastoral Counseling Services. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

All who are able may stand.

PEOPLE

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

FINAL PRAYER

DECLARATION