



Doris Merrill

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
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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 18, 2015 Second Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

ABUNDANCE PRESENTATION – BY YOUTH GROUP

*HYMN NO. 459 *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is calling. Do you not hear?

All: God, you have searched us and know us.

One: You are being called by name, for a purpose.

All: Your knowledge of us is more than we can understand.

One: God’s thoughts embrace us amid all you have created.

All: We were known to God before we were born.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

We have come together, listening God, because you have spoken your word of summons and welcome. We are drawn irresistibly to the promise of your presence and by the persistence of your call. Speak to your servants here in ways we can understand. We want to hear the message you intend for us. 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. 327

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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.

**Children are now excused to attend Church School.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE	Samuel 3:1-20	(O.T. p. 274)
GOSPEL	John 1:43-51	(N.T. p. 95)
SERMON	God Finds Us; God Calls Us	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"Until I Found the Lord"</i>	Thomas

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS

STAINED GLASS WINDOW MOMENT	Thom Family Memorial Window (insert)	Bill Burke
PASTORAL PRAYER		
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>"Come to Me"</i>	

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have been bought with a price. God has made a costly investment in humanity. For love's sake, God sent Christ among us. For love's sake, we make the offering of ourselves and our resources the high point of our worship.

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**

We have heard you calling us, loving God, in the cries of your children – cries for bread, for justice, for relief. We have seen you beckoning to us amid the corporate greed and social distortions of our day. We want to help, and we believe your church can be Christ's healing presence for them. Show us the way to be messengers of your powerful good news. May our offerings be used for the transformation of church and society, individuals and groups. Amen.

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

***HYMN NO. 531** *"Lord, Speak to Me"*

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
Steve Davis
Joe Weaver
Tom and Andrea Cooper
Michael Bryan
Ruth Honnors
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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 25 following worship. Simple lunch will be served. If you are interested in helping or providing a soup for the lunch speak with Linda Webber or Wendy Staggs.

Best Breakfast: meeting following worship **today at 11:45am** in Currier.



LENTEN WORSHIP

Lenten Services: Ash Wednesday is February 18. We will gather for a light supper and then share in a worshipful time together. This will set the path for us to gather five more Wednesday evenings during Lent. Please join us for food, fellowship, worship and community as we observe and reflect on this time in the life of Christ.

Readers Theatre: Please note that the Readers Theatre previously planned for March 15 at 2:00 has been canceled. However, on the six Sundays in Lent, during the worship service, we will present one complete chapter from the Gospel of Mark in the Readers Theatre style.

Board meetings: February 8 and March 8 Committee meetings: February 15 and March 15

Meeting schedule: The day that you are meeting, bring a dish to share, ex: a crockpot, a salad, fruit. You will eat in your designated group until close to noon. You then clear your table and go have your meeting until 1:15. Adjourn your meeting where you are and come to Currier. At 1:20 we will reconvene and share major conversation topics and/or decisions with all present. We will adjourn as close to 1:50 as possible.

On the day that you are NOT meeting, you are asked to help clean-up, do the dishes, sweep the floor, break down tables (leaving the chairs).With enough help, this task might be done by 12:30. Anyone who wants to eat with the Boards may participate with a dish to pass. We hope you will help clean-up, as well.

Scriptures – January 18

1 Samuel 3.1-20

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’ ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’ ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.’

15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ He said, ‘Here I am.’ ¹⁷Eli said, ‘What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.’ ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, ‘It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.’

19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

John 1.43-51

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ ⁵⁰Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ ⁵¹And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’