



Doris Merrill

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

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)

### **March 22, 2015 The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### **WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

\*HYMN NO. 198

*“Life High the Cross”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We call on God’s steadfast love and mercy.

**All: We seek a strong and vital relationship with our God.**

One: God’s law will be written on our hearts.

**All: Our Creator claims us and forgives our faithlessness.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you, O God, we cry out to you today; you know our losses and our fears. You understand our suffering and pain. We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many. We want to hear a reassuring voice. Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #760 (Ma-si-thi) Amen siyakudumisa (repeat x1)

**Amen Bawo, Amen Bawo, Amen siyakudumisa**

**(Sing Amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God (repeat x1)**

**Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen we praise your name, O God.**

CHIME CHOIR

*“Beach Spring”*

arr. Kevin McChesney

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

CHILDREN’S OFFERING

*“This Little Light of Mine”*

**This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (x4)**

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

Marge Palmer

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 may now go on to their classes.)

\*HYMN NO. 172

*"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"*

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

NEW TESTAMENT READING    The Gospel of Mark: Chapter 12 -                      READER'S THEATRE  
Matt Simpson, Ella Simpson, Jen Robinson, Jaime Robinson, Ashley Cox, Malysa Deranian,  
Steven Cox, Michael Cox

INTERACTIVE REFLECTION: Some questions for you to ponder – Why do you think the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes are all putting Jesus to the test? They each say "You are right" but then no one dares to ask him any more questions, why? If he's right, why do they hate him so much?

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Be Still, and Know that I am God"*

Lantz

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP AND OUR PRAYERS**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: FINANCIAL GIVING – Chris O'Brien

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Don't Be Afraid"*

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What are we ready to die for? How much of ourselves and our resources will we risk for the sake of the gospel? Jesus invites us to follow as disciples and servants, risking everything for the sake of God's love.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #562

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,  
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give a way,  
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We dedicate these offerings to the proclamation of your word, the teaching of your ways, and the living of your will for all humankind. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world. May these gifts enable the sharing of your presence with many who have not experienced a sense of their own value as your children. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 204

*"Take Up Your Cross"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"Seven-fold Amen"*

POSTLUDE

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

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH  
DEACONS OF THE MONTH  
LAY READER  
USHERS

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

Members of the Congregation  
Brian Williams and Reni Harnden  
Marge Palmer  
Ken Gould, Bill Burke  
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason  
Michael Bryan  
Dave and Lorie McGrath  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
Rev. Chester R. Ham  
Susan Handy  
Jeff DeLangie  
Lindsey Roman  
Heidi Heath

### First Parish Activity Calendar

#### Sunday, March 22

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room  
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary  
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ Room -John  
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~  
MacGregor

#### No Youth Group

#### Monday, March 23

7:00pm Building Advisory Committee ~ Cook  
7:00pm Trp 405 Meeting ~ Currier  
7:00pm Trp 405 Board of Review ~ A/B

#### Tuesday, March 24

10:00am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier  
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier  
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm GS 20570/BSA Venture 570 ~  
Currier  
6:30pm AA ~ Library  
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

#### Wednesday, March 25

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke  
6:00pm Lenten Supper ~ Currier  
7:00pm Service and Sacred Conversation ~  
Currier

#### Thursday, March 26

12:15pm Ecumenical Communion & Prayer ~  
A/B  
6:00pm Personnel ~ Cook  
6:15pm Sacred Dance ~ Sanctuary  
6:30pm CS Pack 405 Pack Rally ~ Currier  
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room  
7:00pm PPRC ~ Offsite

#### Friday, March 27

5:00pm Spaghetti Supper ~ Currier  
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B  
9:30pm AA Fri Night Assoc. ~ A/B

#### Saturday, March 28

8:00am Area Assembly ~  
Currier/MacGregor/John  
7:30pm AA ~ Currier

#### Sunday, March 29

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Room  
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary  
10:15am Kids Church Program ~ John  
11:15am Hand Chime Choir Rehearsal ~  
MacGregor  
2:00pm Godspell ~ Palace Theatre