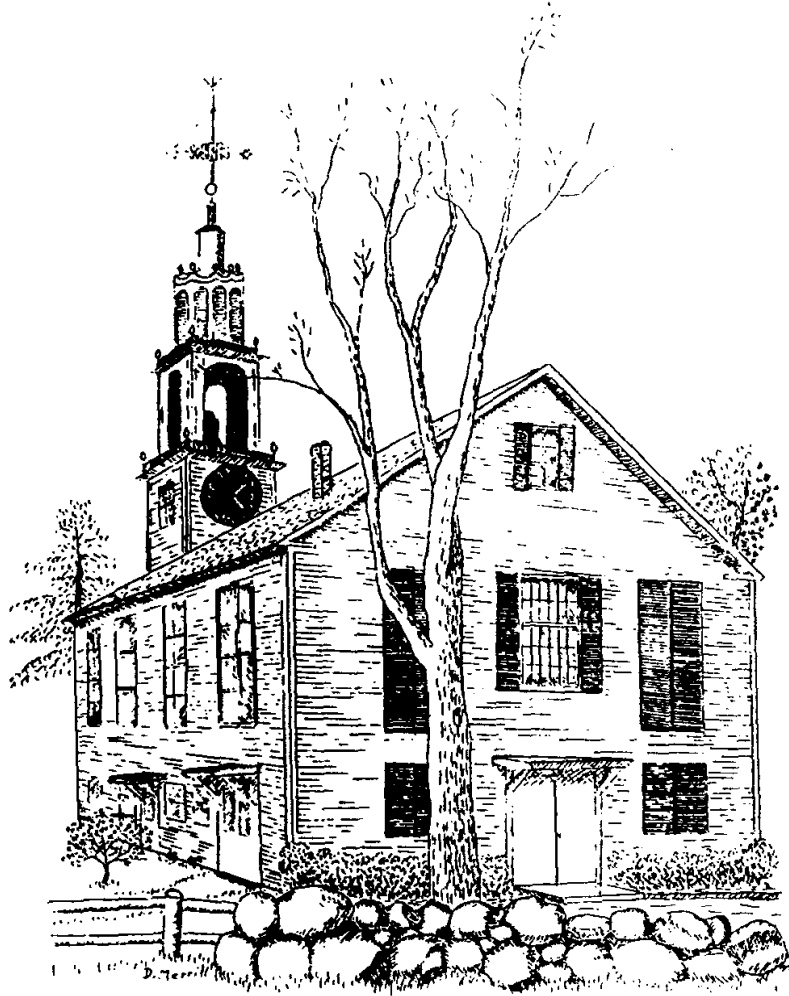


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
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October 4, 2015



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)

October 4, 2015 Proper 22
World Communion

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.

Feel free to join us for refreshments in Currier Hall immediately following the service.

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 honored to have you with us today.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 391

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

*CALL TO WORSHIP RESPONSE (Frances A. Bogle)

One: In a world of difference God reminds us that we are deeply alike.

All: We seek sustenance on bowls of rice and loaves of bread.

One: We laugh when lotus flowers bloom and autumn leaves dance in the wind.

All: We eat with knives and forks and chopsticks and remember that there are people who have no food.

One: We celebrate new friendships and the ties of love that connect us across the globe.

All: We weep when the suffering of our sisters and brothers becomes real for us.

One: We hope for a world of peace and justice for all of creation and remember that...

All: We are God’s strong back and work weary arms.

One: We are God’s callused hands and muscled legs.

All: Through us, with us, God loves and suffers, laughs and cries.

One: God calls all of us to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.

All: God calls us to be God’s Co-creative partners in the redemptive work of justice.

One: United in faith, working in love, we are the hope for the world.

All: God is with us through it all. We are not alone. Amen.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

O God you are peace. From you comes peace. To you returns peace. Revive us with a salutation of peace. And lead us to your abode of peace. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #236 – **Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.**

Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.

CALL TO CONFESSION

At our best, we aspire to live as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, faithful and responsive to our Creator. But, in truth, we forget God in our hectic busyness, and we turn from the way of love in our relationships with others. There is much for us to confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

All-seeing God, we would like to wash our hands in innocence, but we cannot. We compare ourselves favorably with people we label worthless or hypocrites. We are not bloodthirsty, but we have not yet adopted the way of peace. We humbly seek forgiveness as little children in need of your welcoming love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When we come as children, acknowledging our dependence on God for life and all that sustains it, we recognize that loving arms surround us, and hands of blessing rest on our lives.

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"Jesus Loves Me"

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

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CHOIR ANTHEM

"One Bread, One Body"

Foley, arr. Larson

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

OUR SACRED STORY: JESUS in the BREAKING of the BREAD and CUP Poured out

SHARING the MEAL

We celebrate Communion this morning by bringing you the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. As you pass the trays, try to make eye contact with your neighbor.

As you pass the bread, please say the words "**The Bread of Life**" or "**Take and eat.**" The appropriate response when receiving the gifts or elements is "**Amen**" or "**Thanks be to God.**" You may eat the bread when you receive it. This symbolizes that we, each, have a private relationship with God.

As you pass the tray of grape juice, please say the words "**The Cup of Salvation**" or "**The Cup of Love**". Again, your response will be "**Amen**" or "**Thanks be to God.**" Please hold the cup until everyone is served. We will drink the Cup of Salvation in unison, which symbolizes that we are together in a community of faith.

If you are accompanying your children: they are invited to participate and we trust that you will teach them the meaning of this sacred meal.

Gluten-free bread is available. Let the server know.

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus:

For gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die,

For peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends,

For the glory of creation, for the mission of justice you have made our own.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

(Children may now go onto their classes.)

*HYMN NO. 394

"In Christ There is No East or West"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Psalm 26

(O.T. p. 555)

GOSPEL

Mark 10:13-16

(N.T. p. 47)

SERMON

"Come As Children"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"African Sanctus"

Benjamin Harlan

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Look around you with a sense of awe and wonder. Even in the most difficult circumstances of life, we can find beauty and integrity and places where God's abiding glory is evident. Let us give thanks.

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 (UNISON)

We dedicate to your service all the good things we have received from your hand. May our gifts carry the good news throughout our community, making a difference in the quality of life experienced by many, near and far. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO.

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on Earth: The peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator Family all are we.

Let me walk with my neighbor In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; Let this be the moment now.

With every step I take; Let this be my solemn vow.

To take each moment; And live each moment With peace eternally;

Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

FLOWERS Offered by the Berry Family in honor of Leon Berry's birthday

Scriptures – October 4

Psalm 26

Of David.

¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

² Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

⁴ I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;

⁵ I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O LORD,

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

⁸ O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.

⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,

¹⁰ those in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

¹² My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

Mark 10.13-16

13 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.