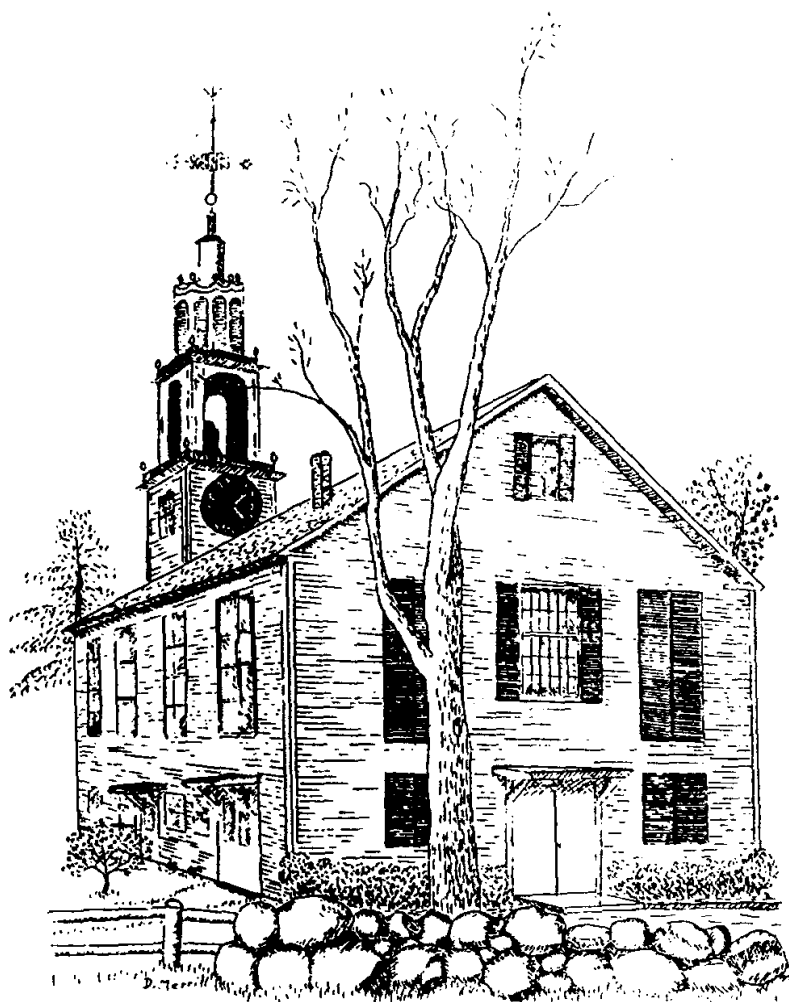


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

January 10, 2016 First Sunday After Epiphany



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 10, 2016

First Sunday After Epiphany

Jesus said: 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and **you gave me food**, I was thirsty and **you gave me something to drink**, I was a stranger and **you welcomed me**, I was naked and **you gave me clothing**, I was sick and **you took care of me**, I was in prison and **you visited me.**'

(Matthew 25:34-36)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

*HYMN NO. 22

"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gather from East and West, from North and South.

All: We bow in awe before the one who created us.

One: God knows us completely, and loves us unconditionally.

All: Let us worship God in awe, wonder, and joy!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

God of cleansing waters and purifying fires, touch our lives today to recall us to the power of our baptism and reconfirm our commitment to Jesus Christ. Name us again as your own people: precious, gifted, created to glorify you in fullness of life, in peace with ourselves and one another. Send your Holy Spirit once more to energize our worship and enliven our witness in the world.

*SONG OF PRAISE #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.**

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Dear God, we offer you our gifts with thanks and praise, be with us and guide us all of our days. Teach us how to love each other, and to shine your light into the world. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Heidi

BLESSING of Debbie Gline-Allen

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 and youth may now go to their classes in the Noyes Building.)

*HYMN NO. 115

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURES	Isaiah 43:1-7 and Psalm 29	(O.T. p. 745) (O.T. p. 557)
GOSPEL	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	(N.T. p. 61-62)
SERMON	"A Voice from Heaven"	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"Borning Cry"</i>	Arr. Larson

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER		
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>"Come to Me"</i>	Bell

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has gathered us from East and West, from North and South, to offer our best in worship and praise. Now we bring the fruits of our labor as an offering of thanks.

We invest in people and programs, near and far, to benefit God's scattered children who have missed the majesty. Let our generosity aspire to match the lavish gifts of God.

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 (UNISON)

For bringing us safely to this hour, we give you thanks, O God of wind and fire. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your mercy. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received. May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ, in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 82 *"God, My Children, With My Blessing"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Christ Be Our Light"*

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
DEACONS OF THE MONTH
LAY READER
USHERS

GREETER(s)
SENIOR PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
AFFILIATE PASTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation
Pat Plouff and Cyndi Gray
Sarah Keller
Ken Gould, Diane Breeden
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason
Michael Bryan
David and Lorie McGrath
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman

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. Thank you for worshipping with us. We are honored to have you with us today.

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, January 10

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Rm
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Music Room
11:30am Congregational Conversation ~
Currier
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~
MacGregor

Monday, January 11

7:00pm Troop 405 ~ Currier/AB/Nursery

Tuesday, January 12

9:30am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke
6:30pm Faith & Television ~ Cook
6:30pm AA ~ Library
7:00pm OA ~ A/B
7:00pm Music Committee ~ Nursery

Wednesday, January 13

12:30pm K.I.T. ~ MacGregor
6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
7:00pm Council ~ Cook
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ A/B

Thursday, January 14

4:30pm Daisy Trp 11080 ~ John
6:30pm BSA Venture Crew 570 ~
MacGregor
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~
A/B/Currier/John/Luke

Friday, January 15

7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, January 16

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, January 17

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier
8:00am Historic Preservation ~ Archive
8:00am Youth Ministry ~ A/B
9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Rm
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Music Room
11:30am Mission ~ A/B
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~
MacGregor

Scriptures – January 10

Isaiah 43.1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Psalm 29

A Psalm of David.

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendour.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.
- ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'