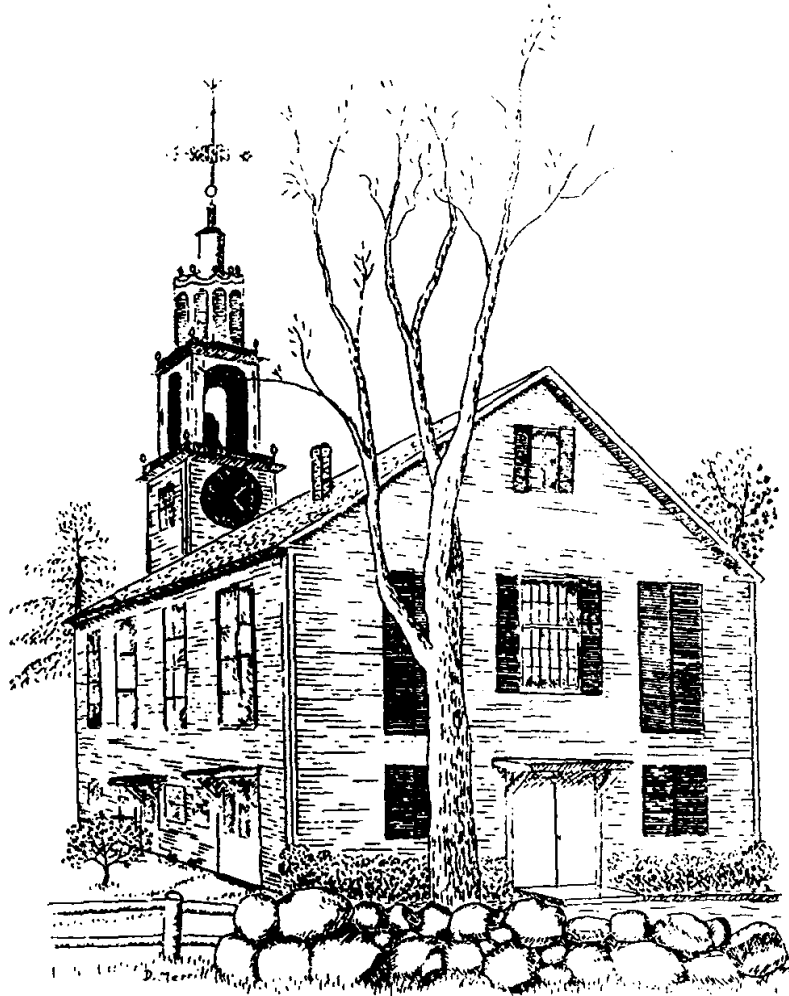


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

January 31, 2016 Fourth 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 31, 2016

Fourth 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. 497

"How Firm a Foundation"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, to the one in whom we trust.

All: God is our rock of refuge, and our strong fortress.

One: Hope in God, who has created you.

All: God accepts us, even when people do not.

One: Our God gives us tasks to do and strength to do them.

All: We have come to embrace the mysteries of our faith.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

God of love, in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service, encounter us in this hour. May we grow in knowledge and actions. Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights. Upset our priorities to make room for faith, hope, and love. Expand our horizons to encompass ideas we have not entertained before. Open our hearts to people we have failed to welcome into our midst. Perfect among us that childlike trust that allows change to transform us into the presence of your love. We pray in Jesus' name. 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.

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"I'm Gonna Sing"

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing (x2)

I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

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

Ken Williams

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.)

*HYMN NO. 531

"God Speak to Me"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURES	Jeremiah 1:4-10	(O.T. p. 776)
NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	(N.T. p. 183)
GOSPEL	Luke 4:21-30	(N.T. p. 63)
SERMON	Prophet on the Edge	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"A Song of Paul"</i>	Fedak
	<i>This music was originally purchased in memory of Bill Willis</i>	

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER		
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>"Word of the Father"</i>	Iona

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has called the church to be an agent of change. With prophetic voice and courageous work, we are to influence the world. Such a task requires our best: our continued growth in faith, our commitment to love, our giving of self and substance. The resources we dedicate here are a symbol of our whole life response.

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 away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

With awe and wonder before you, O God, we dare to enlist all our efforts toward the realization of your realm. Where there is injustice, we would champion those oppressed and misunderstood. When some feel rejected, we reach out to accept them in Christ's name. May these offerings preach and teach and heal. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 448 *"Take My Life, and Let it Be"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

Members of the Congregation

Pat Plouff and Cyndi Gray

Beth Hunter

Ross and Linda Webber

Kevin and Diane Gordon

Michael Bryan

Mark Pingree and Nancy Magee

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Lindsey Roman

GREETER(s)

SENIOR PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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 or come meet Pastor Deborah or Pastor Heidi. Thank you for worshiping with us. We are so glad that you with us today.

First Parish Activity Calendar

Sunday, January 31

9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~
Music Rm
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
11:15am Children’s Choir ~ Music Room
11:35am Hanchime Rehearsal ~
MacGregor
11:45am ANNUAL MEETING ~ CURRIER

Monday, February 1

7:00pm Troop 405 ~
Currier/AB/Nursery
7:00pm Building Advisory Committee ~
Cook

Tuesday, February 2

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

Wednesday, February 3

9:30am LCHIP/Register Discussion ~
MacGregor
6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
6:30pm Deacons ~ Cook
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ Nursery

Thursday, February 4

4:30pm Daisy Trp 11080 ~ John
6:30pm BSA Venture Crew 570 ~
MacGregor
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~
A/B/Currier/John/Luke
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Music Room
7:00pm Stewardship ~ Cook

Friday, February 5

6:00pm First Friday ~ Currier
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, February 6

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, February 7

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
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~
MacGregor
2:00pm Trp 405 Merit Badge Workshop ~
Currier

Scriptures – January 31

Jeremiah 1.4-10

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

⁶ Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,

says the LORD.’

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.’

1 Corinthians 13.1-13

¹³ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4.21-30

²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' ²³He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' ²⁴And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.