

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

**February 28, 2016**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

THIRD SUNDAY IN  
LENT

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)

**February 28, 2016 Third Sunday of Lent**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & JOYS AND CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Lighting the Candles

\*HYMN NO. 23

*"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 55)

One: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

**All: Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land.**

**We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.**

One: Listen carefully to God and eat what is good.

delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

**All: Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast.**

**Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.**

One: God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship.

We are also called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.

**All: We have come to meditate on the living God.**

**We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**We come before you, gracious God, seeking what money cannot buy. Only you can provide nourishment for our souls. Uphold us now that we may worship on wings of joy. 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

Sarah Keller

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. 553

*"There is a Balm in Gilead"*

## MISSION MOMENT

ZIMBABWE – Dr. Erik Hobbie

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE	Psalm 63:1-8	(O.T. p. 582)
GOSPEL	Luke 13:1-9	(N.T. pp. 77-78)
SERMON	A Wideness in God's Mercy	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"We Are Called"</i>	David Haas

### WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER  
CHORAL RESPONSE

*"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"*

### WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION

Why do we use our money for things that do not satisfy, or invest our time in activities without meaning or purpose? God offers us a way of life that satisfies. What we cannot buy, God freely gives us. Our offerings are one way of expressing our thanks.

\*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

**All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your Word to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on your gifts in generous response is necessary to life. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. 18

*"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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

### 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.**

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH  
DEACONS OF THE MONTH  
LAY READER  
USHERS

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

Members of the Congregation  
Brian Williams and Diana Sweeney  
Becca Cobban  
Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell  
Joe Weaver, Carol Guerrin  
Michael Bryan  
Betsy McCall  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath  
Susan Handy  
Jeff DeLangie  
Lindsey Roman

### First Parish Activity Calendar

#### Sunday, February 28

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 Potluck Luncheon, Zimbabwe  
Penpal Program ~ Currier  
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~  
MacGregor  
1:30pm Going Away Party ~ MacGregor

#### Monday, February 29

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

#### Tuesday, March 1

9:30am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier  
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier  
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm Deacons ~ Cook  
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

#### Wednesday, March 2

6:00pm Lenten Supper ~ Currier  
6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ John  
7:00pm Lenten Service ~ Currier  
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ Nursery

#### Thursday, March 3

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

#### Friday, March 4

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

#### Saturday, March 5

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

#### Sunday, March 6

7:00am Best Breakfast ~ Currier  
9:00am Community Life Meeting ~ 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 Mission ~ A/B  
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~  
MacGregor  
11:45am **Congregational Mtg ~ Currier**  
2:00pm Troop 405 Workshop ~ Currier

## Scriptures – February 28

### Psalm 63

A Psalm of David, when he was in the Wilderness of Judah.

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup> So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.

<sup>3</sup> Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

<sup>4</sup> So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

<sup>5</sup> My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

<sup>6</sup> when I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

<sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

<sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

### Luke 13.1-9

13At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?’ <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?’ <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” <sup>8</sup>He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’