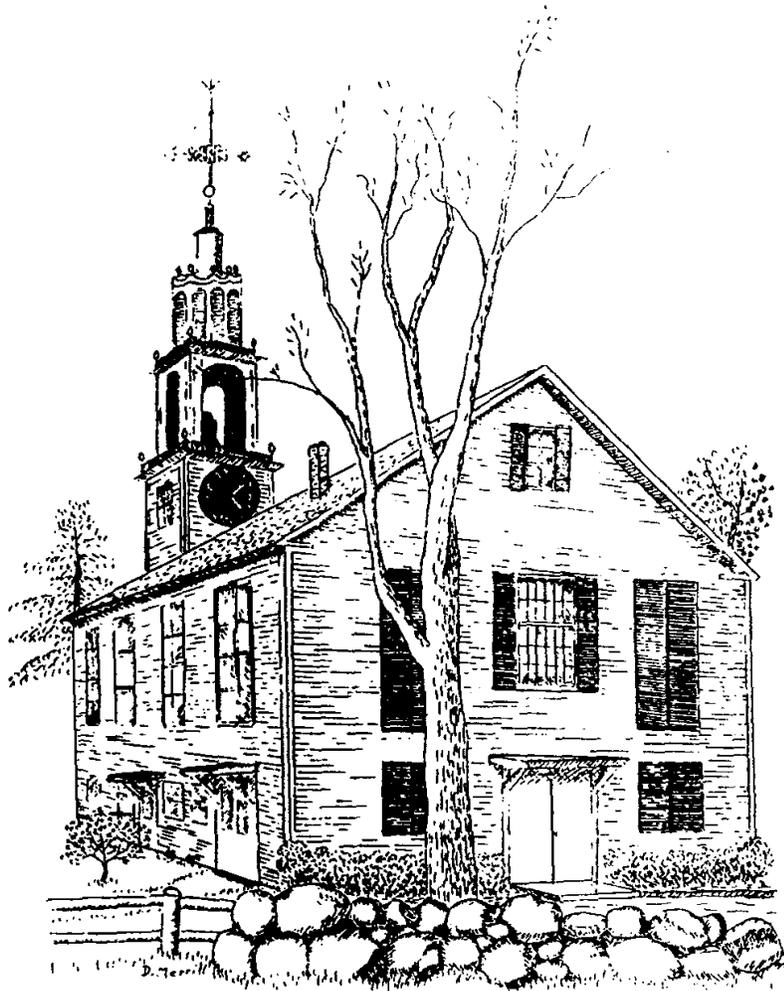


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

February 7, 2016 Transfiguration



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)

February 7, 2016

Transfiguration

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. 86

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come together, a community of faith.

All: May our faces shine in anticipation.

One: We share in a new covenant of promise and hope.

All: We come with boldness to encounter our Creator.

One: Our fears melt into awe and wonder before God.

All: Let us share in the glory of life. What a gift!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Holy are you, O God of all time and space. The mysterious gift of life is ours to handle with care. You have revealed yourself to us. You have created us for justice and equity. You have drawn us to the mountaintop to commune with you. O God, we are here, waiting for your further revelation. Come to enlighten and empower. 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we come before God, we can hold nothing back. God knows us better than we know ourselves. There is no hiding place. Our misuse of God's gifts is evident. We can only turn toward God and seek forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

We tremble before you, O God, for we have sinned. You already know what we have done and what we have failed to do. Hear us now as we recognize and admit our actions and inaction. Enter into our excuses and our pretensions, Holy One. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God provides moments of transformation, sacred times when we sense the cleansing power of the Spirit restoring life and energy. We are even now being changed, lifted up from one degree of glory to another. Believe the good news. Live it. Embrace your ministry, by the grace of 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

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. (Children and youth may now go to their classes.)”

BLESSING OF GIFTS

GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

BLESSING OF THOSE WHO WILL SERVE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come to the Banquet”

Joseph Martin

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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

SHARING the MEAL

Pastor Deborah says the words of institution: **“This is the body of Christ, broken for you.”**

You may eat the bread when you receive it. This symbolizes that we, each, have a private relationship with 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.

To the best of your ability and comfort level please participate in this sacrament with your eyes and your voice. Make eye contact with your neighbor and say the words **“The Bread of Life.”** Respond with: **“Amen”** or **“Thanks be to 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 is: **“Amen”** or **“Thanks be to God.”**

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

*HYMN NO. 183

“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Exodus 34:29-35

(O.T. pp. 87-88)

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

(N.T. pp. 71-72)

SERMON

God-sightings

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lord, I Know I Been Changed”

Spiritual, arr. Shackley

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER
CHORAL RESPONSE

"Word of the Father"

Iona

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

How much the church could accomplish with greater resources! How our shared ministry could blossom if our thanksgiving to God exceeded our fear, greed, and ambition. Let us be open to let God transform our giving.

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)

Thank you, God, for choosing us to speak for you and to act on your behalf. It is an honor to share with others what you have entrusted to us. Our offerings represent our selves and the depth of our commitment. We rededicate to you the talents, abilities, and resources you have placed in our hands. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 451

"Be Now My Vision"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation
Brian Williams and Diana Sweeney
Jennifer Robinson
Diaconate
Michael Bryan
Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman

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