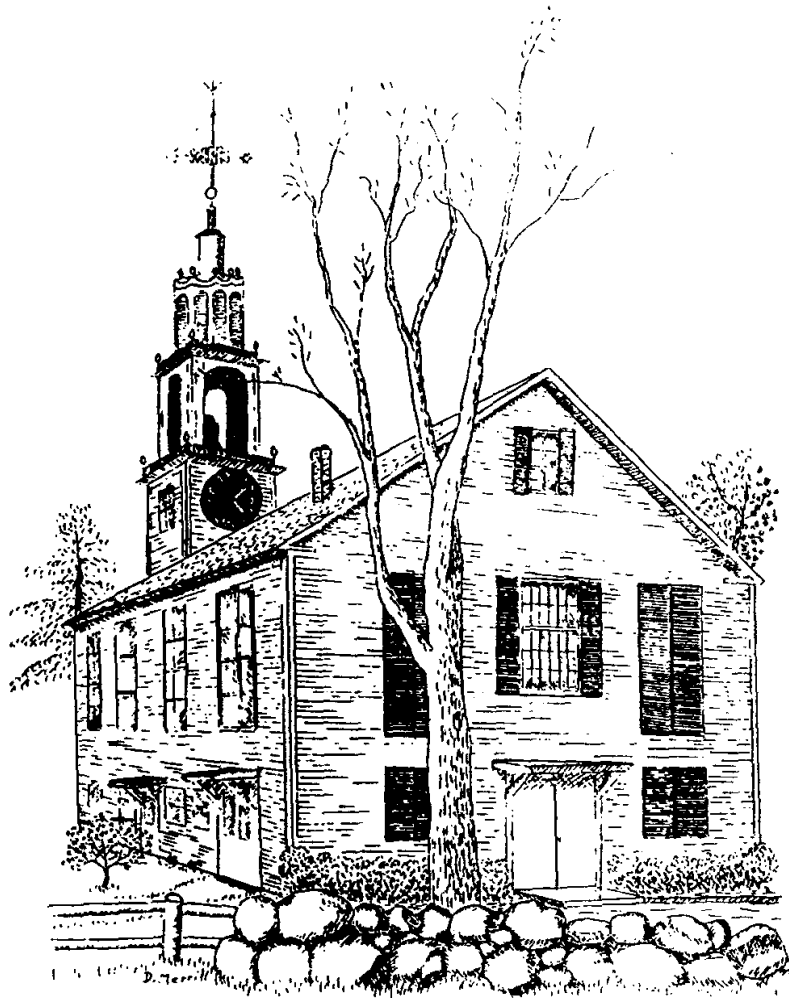


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

January 17, 2016 Second 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 17, 2016

Second 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. 593

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God creates people from every race, tribe,
tongue and ethnic community.

God calls us to live in community marked by love, peace,
justice, respect, and mutual support.

Yet we draw lines between peoples.

We raise barriers.

We treat one another with prejudice.

In every generation, God raises up prophets,
speaking forth God's desire
for all people to live together in love.

**Today we come together to give thanks to God
for Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Today we live into the dream

of all people living together in beloved community.

*OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

God of Righteousness, grant us your life-giving presence.

Guide us in our time of worship,

**and remain with us as we step out into the world,
that we may face injustice with courage and love.**

**May we come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself,
a society that can live with its conscience.**

The timing may feel off;

the end of the road might be out of sight,

yet we trust in your holy presence.

How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever.

How long? Not long, because you still reap what you sow.

**How long? Not long. Because the arm of the moral universe is long,
and all may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. 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

Sue Handy

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 & youth may now go to their classes)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (insert)

Margaret Elizabeth Stevens

*HYMN NO. 588

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Amos 5:21-24

(O.T. p. 952)

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:43-48

(N.T. p. 5)

SERMON

"To dream the impossible dream" The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Freedom"

arr. Hayes

WE RESPOND WITH OUR PRAYERS

A TIME OF PRAYER – Pastor Heidi, Pastor Deborah, and Sue Handy

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Word of the Father"

Iona

WE RESPOND WITH OUR MONETARY GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
- Hebrews 13:16

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)

O God, to you we dedicate these gifts with our love and thanks. Turn our coins into a shower of mercy. Transform our cash into streams of love and beauty. Make our checks instruments of justice and peace in your world. Most of all may they glorify you. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 282

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"How Long?" (Choplin) (You may now exit in silence.)

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
Cyndi Gray
Stanley and Holly Gorgol
Tom and Andrea Cooper
Michael Bryan
Diane Breeden
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
Rev. Chester R. Ham
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Lindsey Roman

GREETER(s)
SENIOR PASTOR
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
AFFILIATE 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 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 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

Monday, January 18

Martin Luther King Day
7:00pm Troop 405 ~ Currier/AB/Nursery

Tuesday, January 19

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
6:30pm Mother Support Group ~ Currier
7:00pm OA ~ A/B

Wednesday, January 20

6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ Luke
7:00pm Building Advisory ~ Cook
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ A/B

Thursday, January 21

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 22

7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

Saturday, January 23

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

Sunday, January 24

9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Music Rm
10:00am Worship ~ Sanctuary
10:15am Sunday School ~ John
**1:00pm Rev. Chester R. Ham
Celebration of Life ~ Sanctuary**
2:00pm Luncheon following Celebration
of Life

Scriptures – January 17

Amos 5.21-24

²¹ I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²² Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Matthew 5.43-48

⁴³ ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.”’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.