

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

**April 24, 2016**      **Fifth Sunday of Easter**



**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)

**April 24, 2016**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education.**

**In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others.**

**In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

\*HYMN NO. 307

*"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: So we've experienced Easter and the Resurrection, but I don't feel any different.

**All: Here's the same call and response call to worship.**

One: Here's a line of scripture from Ephesians 1:3-4 I'm making you read aloud:

**All: How blessed is God! And what a blessing God is! God, the Ground of Being of our teacher, Jesus Christ, who takes us to the high places of blessing in him.**

One: Long before God laid down earth's foundation, God had us in mind,

**All: God had settled on us as the focus of God's abundant love, to be made whole and holy by this love.**

One: Hey, that wasn't bad. May our meditations of our hearts and ponderings of our minds be acceptable to the Gracious Mystery.

**All: May it be so!**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)**

One: Gracious God, here I am, again, trying to write another prayer that balances adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication for us all to say in morning worship.

**All: Gracious God, the minister is making us read this prayer together. They make us do this every Sunday.**

One: Does it even matter? Why bother? Does prayer even work?

**All: Some of us aren't sure. The rest of us are cautiously optimistic.**

One: O Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

**All: We pray in the name of Jesus, the one we are told took time to pray. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #236 **Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.  
Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.**

**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

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.**

HYMN NO. 43

*"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

FIRST SCRIPTURE	Revelation 21:1-6	(N.T. p. 282)
SECOND SCRIPTURE	John 13:31-35	(N.T. p. 112)
SERMON	What is the point anyway?	The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
CHOIR ANTHEM	<i>"Soon &amp; Very Soon"</i>	Crouch, arr. Schrader

### **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Jesus, Remember Me"*

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money<sub>[a]</sub> to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

May we continue to seek to follow God in our lives and in our giving. The morning offering will now be given and received.

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

**Lord, richly bless and multiply these offerings of gratitude that all whose lives they touch may know the grace and power of your love. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

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

\*HYMN (insert)

*"How Great Thou Art"*

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"*

POSTLUDE

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

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH  
DEACONS OF THE MONTH  
LAY READER  
USHERS

Members of the Congregation  
Fred Merrill and Joanne Worthen  
Reni Harnden  
Ken Gould, Diane Breeden  
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason  
Michael Bryan  
Beth Hunter  
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath  
Susan Handy  
Jeff DeLangie  
Lindsey Roman

GREETER(s)  
PASTOR  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

### First Parish Activity Calendar

#### Sunday, April 24

9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Luke  
10:00am Worship ~ Currier  
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Luke  
11:30am Mission ~ A/B  
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ Luke

#### Monday, April 25

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

#### Tuesday, April 26

9:30am Nutfield Gym ~ Currier  
4:00pm GS Troop 20993 ~ Currier  
6:15pm GS Troop 20321 ~ Luke  
6:30pm Bible Study ~ Currier  
7:00pm Facilities ~ Cook  
7:00pm OA ~ Nursery

#### Wednesday, April 27

8:30am Rehab Fundraising Com. ~ A/B  
6:00pm GS Troop 13152 ~ John  
7:00pm AA 12 Step Workshop ~ Nursery

#### Thursday, April 28

4:30pm Daisy Trp 11080 ~ John  
6:30pm CS Pack 405 ~ Currier/Luke/AB  
7:00pm Sr. Choir ~ Luke Mis

#### Friday, April 29

5:00pm Spaghetti Supper ~ Currier  
7:00pm AA Serenity Sisters ~ A/B

#### Saturday, April 30

7:30pm AA ~ Currier

#### Sunday, May 1

9:00am Sr. Choir Rehearsal ~ Luke  
10:00am Worship ~ Currier  
10:15am Sunday School ~ John  
11:15am Children's Choir ~ Luke  
11:35am Handchime Rehearsal ~ Luke  
12:00pm Christian Ed ~ Nursery  
3:00pm Patel Gathering ~ Currier

#### First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Our website [www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org) Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook [www.facebook.com/fpcucc](http://www.facebook.com/fpcucc)



## Scriptures – April 24

### Revelation 21.1-6

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

### John 13.31-35

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.<sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.<sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.”<sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’