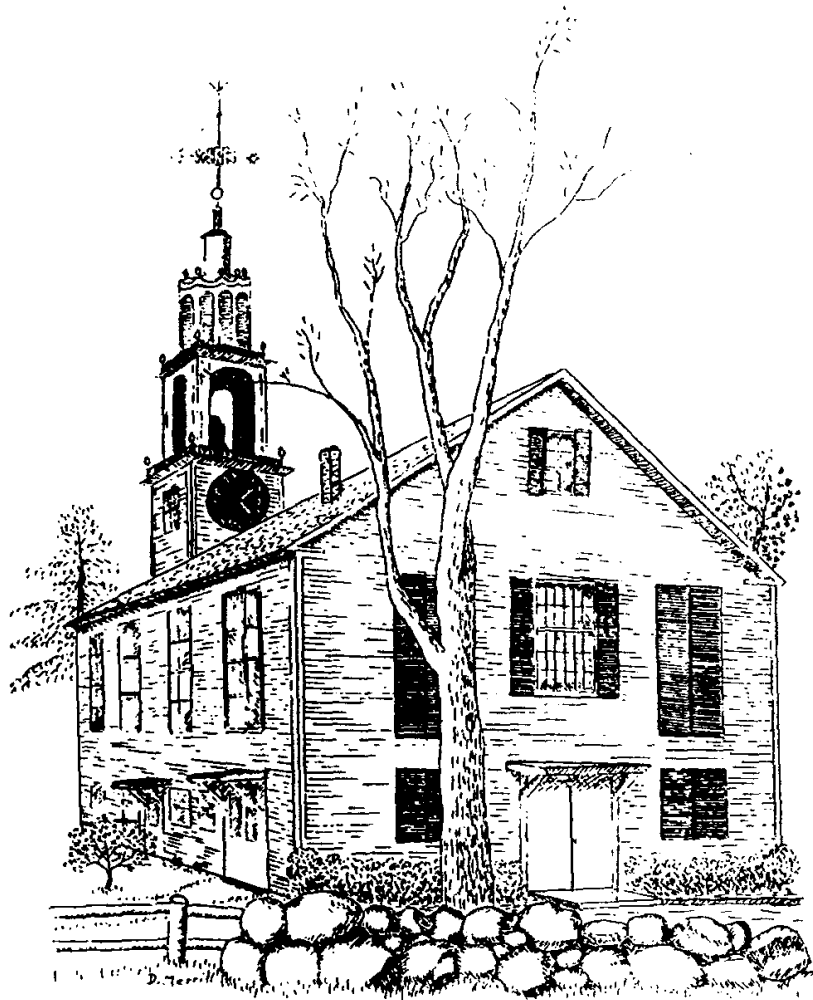


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

May 1, 2016

Sixth Sunday of Easter



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)

May 1, 2016

Sixth 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. 1

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to this place of prayer; God is calling us.

All: We have come to hear the Word of God.

One: Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

All: We have brought with us all that weighs us down.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Maker of all things, Ruler of all peoples of the earth, we bring our prayers of thanksgiving and praise. You have provided the water of life for our baptism. You have fed us with the fruits of the earth and nourished us through your Word. Meet us again in the joyous encounter of worship, lest we forget the source of all we have and all that we are. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Amen.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

There is a gap between intention and reality, a chasm we create between ourselves and God. That is why we observe a time of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, we have wandered far from your love. We have neglected your Word in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day. Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world. Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything, to resist change, lest it require more of us. We know you are reaching out to heal us; help us to respond. We know we are surrounded by your love. Let us feel it deep within, that we may reflect that love to all we meet. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus invites us to stand, to feel our own strength, to understand our own power, to sense the changes that love is accomplishing within us and among us. Praise God, who has blessed and forgiven us.

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

"Jesus Loves Me"

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

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.)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Celtic Laud"

Martin & Courtney

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

OUR SACRED STORY: JESUS in the BREAKING of the BREAD and CUP POURED OUT

SHARING the MEAL

We celebrate Communion this morning by Intinction. You will be instructed to come forward. You are invited to receive a morsel of bread and dip it into the grape juice. The gluten-free bread station is located in front of the choir.

Your children are invited to participate and we trust that you will teach them the sacred meaning of this holy meal.

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. 613

"O Holy City, Seen of John"

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 67

(O.T. p. 84)

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 16:9-15

(N.T. pp. 141-142)

Revelation 21:1-4

(N.T. p. 282)

Gospel of John 14:23-29

(N.T. p. 113)

SERMON

"A New Heaven and a New Earth"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Shout to the Lord"

Darlene Zschech

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Be Still and Know that I Am God"

Bell

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What do we have to give? Only what we have received. The earth has yielded its increase. God has blessed us in more ways than we can count. Let us offer to God more than support of a church. Let us offer ourselves for the healing of nations.

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

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and an evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 597 *"Shall We Gather at the River"*

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"May You Run and Not Be Weary"* Murekami

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Carol Bates and Cyndi Gray

Malyssa Deranian

Diaconate

Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Lindsey Roman

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 Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc



Scriptures – May 1

Psalm 67

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,

Selah

² that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.

Selah

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Acts 16.9-15

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.

Revelation 21.1-4

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.² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ 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;

⁴ 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.’

John 14.23-29

²³ Jesus answered him, ‘Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ ‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you.²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.²⁸ You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.