

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

June 19, 2016

Celebration Sunday



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)

June 19, 2016 Celebration Sunday

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

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*HYMN NO. 25

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Many: The settlers came here and called it Nutfield. CVS & Walgreens were non-existent. Motel 6 hadn't even been thought of and yet they came. Without shelter, with few material goods, they brought a strong faith in God that sustained them from which our congregation was created.

One: Our hope for years to come

Many: We forge into the future in faith. A building lifted off its foundation, and yet our foundation is secure because of God's love for us.

One: Our shelter from the stormy blast

Many: These are troubling times. We live in fear of attack, food that could be contaminated, scammers trying to take our money or belongings. Our sanctuary is you, God. When we come together as a church family to worship, we feel the comfort of each other based in your love for us.

One: and our eternal home.

Many: Just as we have kept the faith of Rev. MacGregor and Rev. Parker, so may our children and our children's children keep the faith in which we so strongly believe. Someday, new voices will sing your praise and hear your words. Bless them, we pray, as you have blessed us.

ALL: Amen.

(Written by Susan W. Handy)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison) (Taken from "Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship")

Edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi)

Creator God,

It is in our lives that we become aware of your life.

It is in the rhythms of the world

that we hear your pulse, your breathing, your footsteps.

We have built this house of worship

not as a vault to contain you

but as a reminder of the sanctuary that is the whole world you have made, not because this is the only place we find you,

but because we are here reminded to look for you

on the sidewalks we pass,

the highways we travel,

the rooms in which we live.

the sky and the sea and the land which embrace us and tickle our senses,

but even more than this

**in the eyes we meet, the hands we hold,
the human stories that we hear and tell...**

there is where we find you nearest, the most real.

We hold a newborn child in our arms, and sense that we are embracing God.

We listen to music, and sense that we are listening to the language of heaven.

We dance, and sense that we have experienced the fullness of prayer.

It is in our lives that we know you are alive.

We thank you for the lives you have given us,

for the senses which are ours through which to experience life,

and for our human souls which reach out toward you, even now.

We thank you for your loving presence.

Amen.

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

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

*At this time, all children are invited to come forward for the children's offering, and children's time.
An offering is not required for participation. All are welcome, especially first time visitors.*

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

"God on the Go"

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.)**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

"The Summons" (vs:1, 2, 3)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

PRESENTATION: "YOU - SITTING IN THE PEW NEXT TO ME" Act 1

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 121

NEW TESTAMENT I Corinthians 12:4-13

PRESENTATION: "YOU - SITTING IN THE PEW NEXT TO ME" Act 2

*HYMN *"The Summons" (vs:4, 5)*

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

PASTORAL REFLECTION

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Christ Be My Song"

Mark Hayes

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Oh Take Me As I Am"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Now there are varieties of gifts, and varieties of services, and varieties of activities, and it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. Let us show our gratitude.

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 God, our God, we are many members baptized into the one body, which is Christ our LORD. We dedicate these gifts praying for your abundant blessing on those who will receive the bounty of your love through them and us. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 391

"In The Midst of New Dimensions"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

*"YOU - SITTING IN THE PEW NEXT TO ME" From Reaching for Rainbows: Resources for Creative Worship by Ann Weems, © 1980, Westminster Press.

Scriptures – June 19

Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

I Corinthians 12.4-13

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.