

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

**July 24, 2016**

CHRISTMAS IN JULY – FOR UNTO US



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)

July 24, 2016 MERRY CHRISTMAS

**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)

**WE WELCOME ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

\*HYMN (see insert) "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Breaking forth into singing, all God's people.  
Hear the Good tidings of salvation and peace!

**All: God has done marvelous things among us.  
Let us make a joyful noise together.**

One: There is a new song in the air.  
The whole universe responds to the child in our midst.

**All: The winds lift up the songs of angels.  
Flames of fire proclaim the spirit's presence.**

One: A light shines amid our gloom.  
The Word comes to make a difference in our lives.

**All: As children of God, we bear witness to the light.  
As followers of Christ, we proclaim the wonder of rebirth.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**God of the prophets, we hear you speaking again in the word made flesh. Help us to listen with awe and wonder and to look with seeing eyes for your presence right here, right now. Grant us your peace, that we may be peacemakers. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #759 **Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,  
Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

**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

Ken Williams

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.)

\*HYMN NO. 131

*"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

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

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52: 7-10

One: How beautiful upon the mountain

*Left Side: Are the feet of the messenger*

*Right Side: Who brings peace*

*Left Side: Who brings the good news*

*Right Side: Who brings salvation*

*Left Side: Who says: 'Your God Reigns'*

One: Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices. Together they sing for joy!

*Left Side: For in plain sight*

*Right side: they see the return of the Lord to Zion*

*Left Side: Break forth into singing*

*Right Side: for the Lord has comforted God's people.*

**All: And all the ends of the earth shall see God's salvation!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:1-17

(N.T. p. 1)

GOSPEL

John 1:1-5

(N.T. p. 94)

SERMON

"The Greatest of Women"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

SPECIAL MUSIC

Brian Lew

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God chooses us as partners in establishing the reign of righteousness and peace. Who will receive the Word because of what we share today for the work of our church in the world? Who will know God's love and faithfulness tomorrow *because* we live close to them as children of light?

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**

**No offering is adequate to express our thanks, loving God, but what we give, we bring with joy. May the good tidings of salvations live in these gifts and in our lives. May the ends of the earth know the steadfast love of God. Grant comfort to those who mourn, peace to those who face the world's turmoil, and joy to all who serve in Christ's name. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD**

**\*HYMN NO. 154**

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

**BENEDICTION**

"Joy to the World"

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**POSTLUDE**

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

**MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH**

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH**

**LAY READER**

**USHERS**

Members of the Congregation

Sarah Keller and Diane Dunn

Cindy Pingree

Becky Fleury and Verna Elwell

Joe Weaver and Sue Hunt

Michael Bryan

Diane Breeden

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Susan Handy

Chris Farren

Rebecca Cobban

**GREETER(s)**

**PASTOR**

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST**

**INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

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

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 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)



**Boy Scout Bake Sale** – The boy scouts are having a bake sale fundraiser after church **today!!**

**Food Pantry Donations** – We are in need of food pantry donations, they must be nonperishable and non-glass. Please help us support our local food pantry, every donation counts.

**Fireworks Cruise!!** – Join us on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for the annual Youth Ministry Fireworks Cruise. Tickets are being sold after church, \$15 each or 4 for \$50. Please see Paula Robinson after church to purchase tickets.

## **Matthew 1: 1-17**

### **The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah**

<sup>1</sup> This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: <sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, <sup>7</sup> Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, <sup>8</sup> Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. <sup>12</sup> After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup> Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, <sup>15</sup> Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. <sup>17</sup> Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

## **John 1: 1-5**

### **The Word Became Flesh**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.