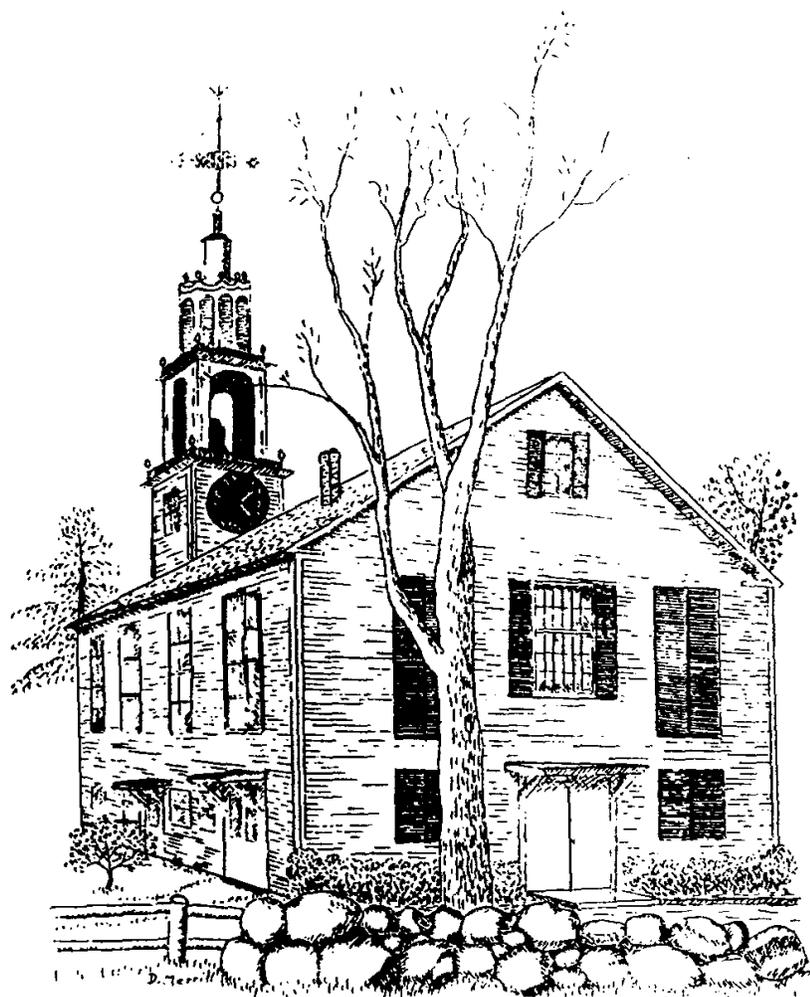


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

July 3, 2016

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



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)

July 3, 2016

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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. 193

"In the Cross of Christ"

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 30)*

One: Let us sing praises to God, all you faithful ones,

All: and give thanks to God's holy name.

One: God does not abandon us in our distress.

All: God's healing presence restores us to life.

One: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**All: Indeed, God turns our mourning into dancing;
God takes off our sackcloth and clothes us with joy.**

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God, and not be silent.

All: O Lord, our God, we will give thanks to you forever!

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for all the blessings we experience—the freedom to worship you without fear, the bounty and diversity of your creation, and the precious gift of unexpected joy. As we draw near to you this hour, may we immerse ourselves in your presence. Refresh us and renew us that we might become faithful laborers in your harvest of peace, justice, and joy. We pray in the name of our great Healer, Jesus Christ. 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.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew that where our treasure is there our heart may be also. Giving is one way we reflect how God's love is alive at First Parish back into the world. The morning offering will now be given and received.

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

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 346

"Bread of the World"

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. 591

"This is my Song"

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Psalm 66:1-9

(O.T. pp. 583-584)

GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

(N.T. pp. 72-73)

SERMON

"Making Disciples, Loving America, and God's Grace"

Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Psalm 66: 1-9

Praise for God's Goodness to Israel

To the leader. A Song. A Psalm.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

 sing the glory of his name;

 give to him glorious praise.

Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!

 Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth worships you;

 they sing praises to you,

 sing praises to your name.'

Selah

Come and see what God has done:

 he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

He turned the sea into dry land;

 they passed through the river on foot.

There we rejoiced in him,

 who rules by his might for ever,

whose eyes keep watch on the nations—

 let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

Selah

Bless our God, O peoples,

 let the sound of his praise be heard,

who has kept us among the living,

 and has not let our feet slip.

Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

The Mission of the Seventy

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near."

'Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'

The Return of the Seventy

The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'