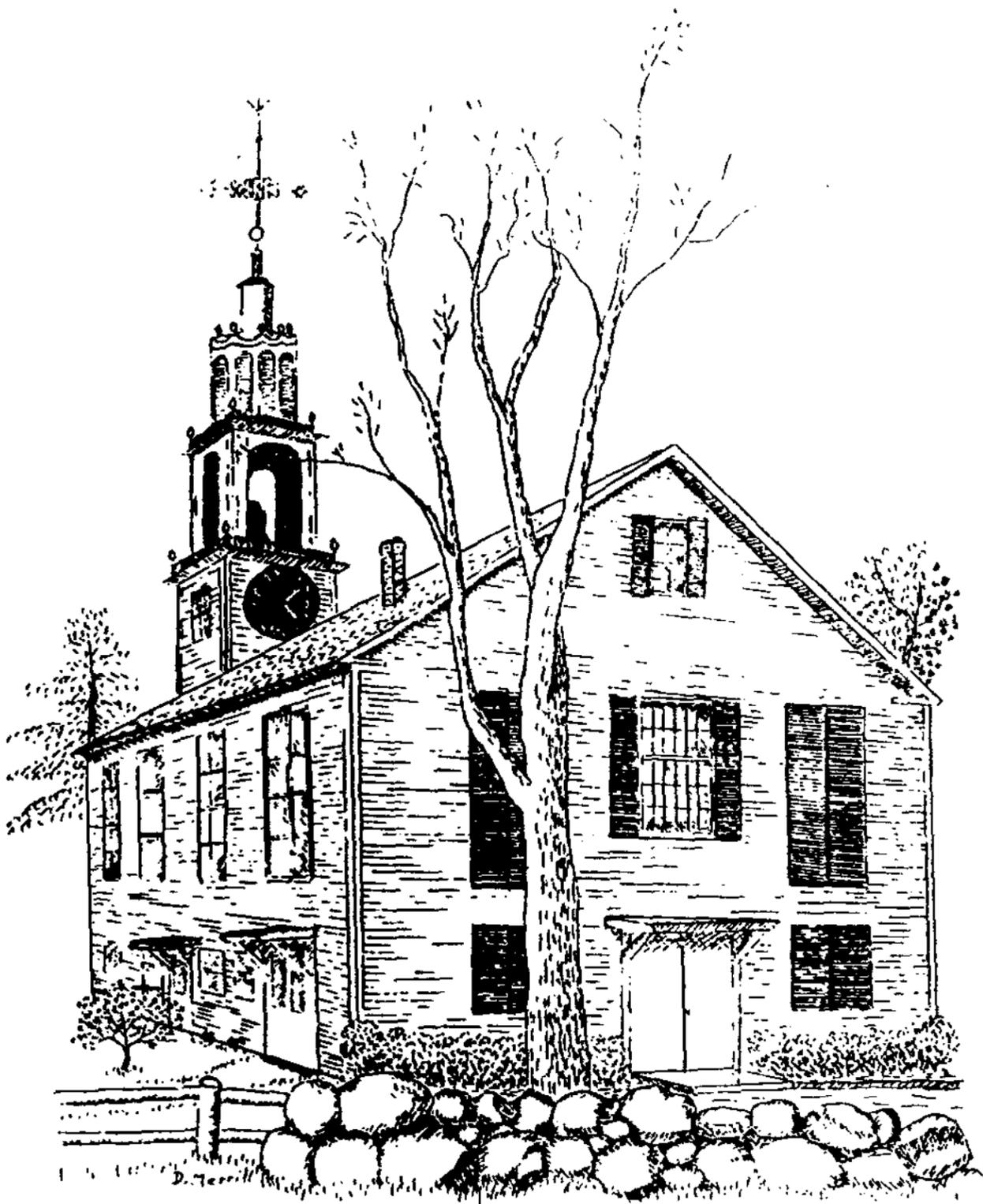


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

August 21, 2016

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



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)

August 21, 2016 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

**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 TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

HYMN NO. 1 *"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God welcomes you to this hour of prayer.

All: **God calls us by name and awaits our coming.**

One: God is like a shepherd, caring for her flock.

All: **God is like a gardener, carefully tending her vines.**

One: Surely God has provided richly for us.

All: **Let us sing praise to the one who longs for our faithfulness.**

***INVOCATION**

**Surrounded by a rich heritage of faith, we seek to know you, God, in
this time of worship. Thankful for our spiritual ancestors, we return to
our roots to find our true identity. We lay aside all that weighs us down
and fills us with doubts so we can give attention to your call and your
message. Meet us here, we pray. 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.**

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM of John and Kathryn Pappas
When invited by the Pastor please stand as you are able and let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

PASTOR: Do you believe in God?

PEOPLE: I believe in God.

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE: I believe in Jesus Christ.

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

(Congregation may sit at this time.)

*HYMN NO. 503

"O Savior, Let Me Walk with You"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT Psalms 107:1-9, 43 (O.T. pp. 619-620)

NEW TESTAMENT Hebrews 11:29-12:2 (N.T. pp. 242-243)

SERMON "Cloud of Witnesses" The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

*HYMN (see insert)

"Here I am, Lord"

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, people of generations before us who have given their all in faithfulness to God. Much is required of those who make faith commitment. Much is required of us. We give, however, not out of fear or a sense of duty but because it is a joyful opportunity to express thanks for all we have 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**

Gracious God, whose creative energy has filled all heaven and earth with good things for us to enjoy and share, we would honor you with our offerings. May the programs we initiate and the outreach we support bear fruits of justice and peace. We look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, as our model in facing all circumstances and giving ourselves for others. Amen.

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

***HYMN NO. 394** *“In Christ There is No East or West”*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ***God Be With You***

**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	Members of the Congregation
DEACONS OF THE MONTH	Cindy Pingree and Reni Harnden
LAY READER	Joanne Worthen
USHERS	Stanley and Holly Gorgol
	Tom and Andrea Cooper
	Michael Bryan
	Becky Fleury
GREETER(s)	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
PASTOR	The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
ASSOCIATE PASTOR	Susan Handy
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Jeff DeLangie
ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST	Rebecca Cobban
INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Interim Office Manager: Rebecca Cobban Email: officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and ‘friend us’ on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc



Scripture

Psalms 107:1-9, 43

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, ³ those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south. ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle. ⁵ They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. ⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ⁷ He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle. ⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, ⁹ for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. ⁴³ Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the LORD.

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. ³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. ³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. ³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

12¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.