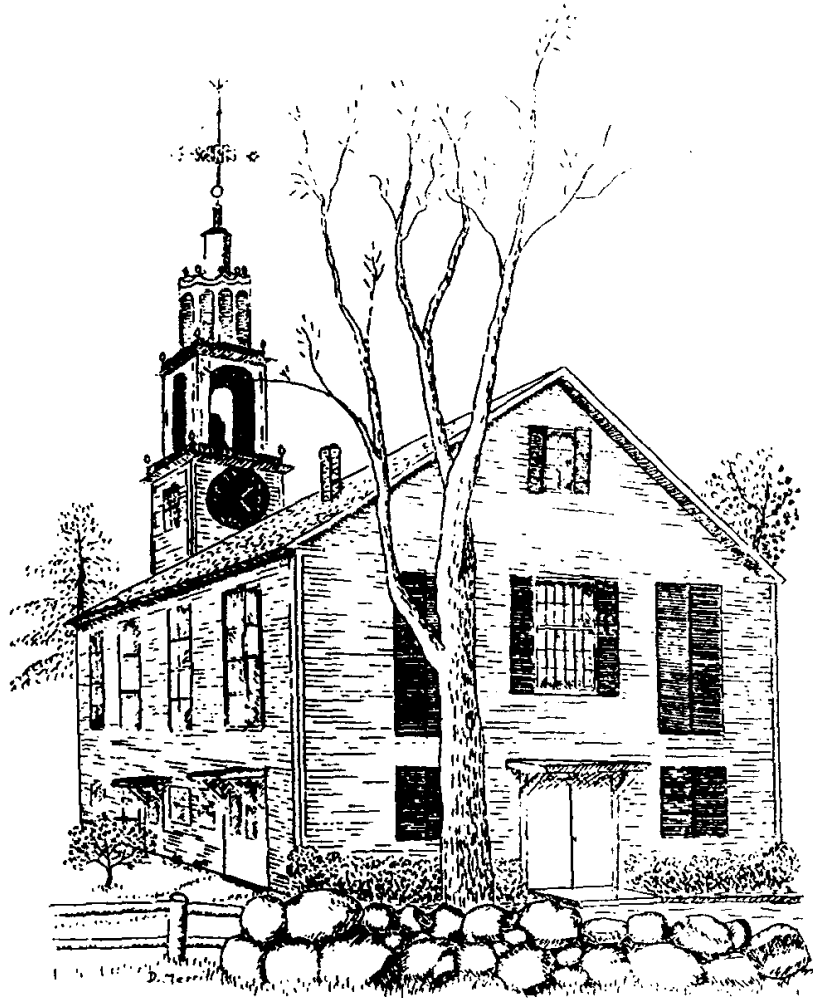


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

August 7, 2016

Nineteenth 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 7, 2016

Nineteenth 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.436

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gather before God, people of the covenant.

All: Let us listen for God's Word, O faithful ones.

One: God has summoned us to this place.

All: We believe God will speak to us here.

One: Let us come to honor God and give thanks.

All: We will seek to learn and follow in God's way.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

For the rich heritage we have received from your hand, we are grateful, O God. You have fashioned our hearts and observed our deeds. Teach us here what we need to know in order to live faithfully in this troubled world. Lead us beyond the routines of worship to a genuine, life changing encounter with you. 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

Do we live in self-protective rebellion against God's call to rescue the oppressed and devote ourselves to seeking justice for all?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have shaped our own standards and values rather than seeking to know you will. We turn from faith in you. Our hearts focus on the things we can accumulate. Lead us, O God, into acts of compassion, that our attitudes may be reshaped and a right relationship with you restored. 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 YOUNGER DISCIPLES

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. 342

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

INVITATION TO THE TABLE with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

OUR SACRED STORY

SHARING the MEAL

We celebrate Communion this morning by Intinction. You are invited to come forward where you will be invited to receive a morsel of bread and dip it into the grape juice. Your children are invited to participate and we trust that you will teach them the sacred meaning of this holy meal.

The **gluten-free bread station** is located in front of the keyboard.

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. 609

"Now is the Time Approaching"

NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

(N.T. p. 242)

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

(N.T. pp. 76-77)

SERMON

"Wallets That Don't Wear Out"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH MUSIC AND PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jeff DeLangie and Brian Lew

Brian Lew is playing Leon Berry's trombone, (RIP August 5, 2015)

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. When you invest generously in the work to which God calls us, your whole life is drawn into fulfilling relationships with God and with the people you are helping.

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

Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your caring realm, where we claim the needs of others as our concern. We are finding a homeland in your service and we are grateful. Above all, may our offerings be an outpouring of thanksgiving for a God who does not forget us.

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

*HYMN NO. 547 *“Amazing Grace”*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Let there be Peace on Earth

Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth - The peace that was meant to be.

With God, our Creator; Family all are we. Let me walk with my Neighbor In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me - Let this be the moment now.

With every step I take -Let this be my solemn vow.

To take each moment And live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me.

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

*This service is dedicated to the loving memory of
John M. Palmer, Jr., (RIP July 31, 2006)
~ beloved brother, father, and grandfather.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

Members of the Congregation

Cindy Pingree and Reni Harnden

Jaime Robinson

Diaconate

Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Susan Handy

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

Jeff DeLangie

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rebecca Cobban

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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



Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the Promised Land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. ¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”