

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

September 11, 2016 Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RALLY SUNDAY 2016



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)

September 11, 2016

Twenty-Fourth 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. 388**

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In the laughter of our children,

All: We hear you!

One: In the careful hands of Preservation Timber Framers, and Morin Contracting,

All: We see you!

One: In the beautiful harmonies of our choirs,

All: We hear you!

One: In coffee hour, and committee work,

All: We see you!

One: In the words of our pastors, and the tender notes of our chime choir,

All: We hear you!

One: In hands that have faithfully served this place for so many years, and new faces walking through our doors for the first time,

All: We see you!

One: Come, let us worship God.

***INVOCATION**

Gathering God, we come back together after a long summer, sun-kissed, spirit-filled, and ready for routine. We turn our hearts to you in hope, knowing you are near. Knit us together that we might weave the tapestry you dream for us as congregation this year. Help us to hear, see, and feel you in our work and worship together. Bring forth love for our neighbor from willing hearts, and praise from our open hands. Amen.

***SONG OF PRAISE #756**

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia**

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

"Come as a Child"

**Come as a child, when He calls you to follow.
Just come as a child, for His love is untold.
Come as a child when you seek His communion,
For then, all His blessings unfold.**

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

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.

***HYMN NO. 397**

"Thank You, God, for Sisters, Brothers"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 18:1-11

(O.T. p. 801)

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-10

(N.T. p. 80)

SERMON

"God in Each Other"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"I Felt the Hand of God"

Craig Courtney

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have the opportunity to join with God in providing for the poor and oppressed. Our gifts carry God's mercy to people who have not known God's love or discovered the joy of living in harmony with God's good earth and with their sisters and brothers.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Our Rock and Our Salvation"

arr. Hayes

*DOXOLOGY #562, verse 1

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Because we have been blessed by you, O God, we are delighted to share.
Because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty, we search for ways
to help them. Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient
example, the way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of
faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our offerings, we pray.
Amen.**

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

*HYMN NO. 539 *“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation
Diana Sweeney and Brian Williams

Beth Hunter

Ross and Linda Webber

Kevin and Diane Gordon

Michael Bryan

Betsy McCall

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLangie

Rebecca Cobban

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Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 12:00 noon – 4:00 PM

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



Scripture

Jeremiah 18:1-11

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. ⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶ Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. ⁹ And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. ¹¹ Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Luke 15:1-10

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."