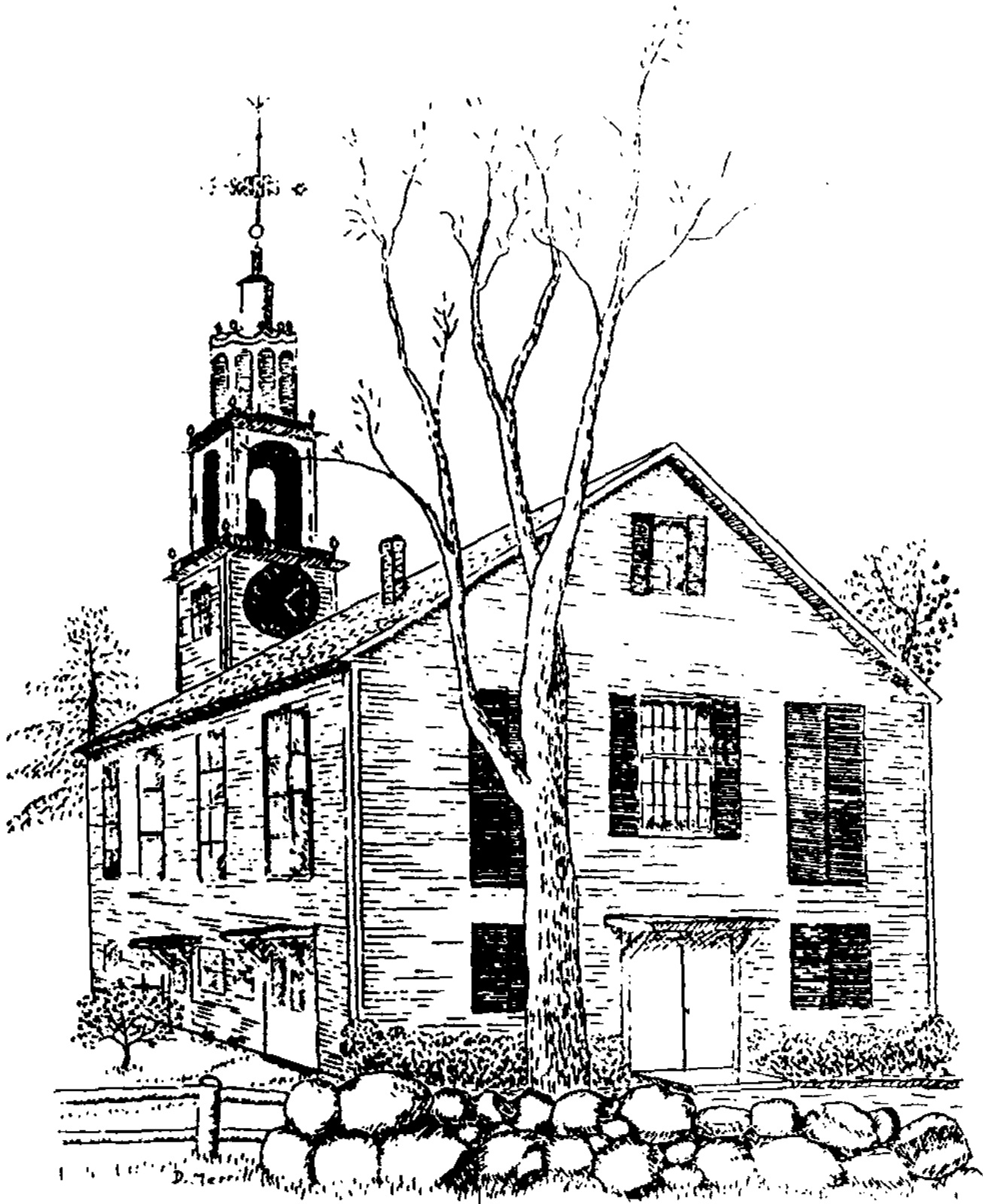


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**October 30, 2016      Thirty-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)

October 30, 2016

Thirty-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 #439

*"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to this place, God, because somewhere in our lives, faintly or distinctly, we have heard you call us.

**Many: We come – some sleepily, some alert, some tired, some energized – to share in your presence.**

One: We come to say thanks that we are your people. We come to worship, to know better what your call upon us means.

**Many: We come with joy, awaiting your transforming love in our lives.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy One, as we move into a time of worship this morning, we turn our hearts to you in hope knowing you are near. Bring forth praise from our open hearts, service from our willing hands, and deepen our connection to you and one another. Amen.

\*LITANY OF CONFESSION:

Leader: O Lord, we've heard the old, old story and we confess our indifference.

**People: God, jolt our lives to turn and look at you once more.**

Leader: Give us the ears to hear your wonderful story of amazing grace.

**People: O Lord, we ask for your presence this day. Brush against us when we least expect it. Touch us with your Spirit. Take us by the shoulders and shake us awake to your incredible truth.**

Leader: We are your people and you are our God. Forgive our faithlessness, oh faithful God! See beyond our apathy, our thoughtlessness, our self-centeredness, our wrong choices. See into our hearts and forgive our human frailties.

**People: We pledge once more to give to those who need us, that this world might be more human. We pledge to do away with indifference. We pledge to tell the old, old story in new life-changing ways! For Jesus' sake.**

**All: Amen.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE #756**

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsus Deo  
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**The good news in Christ is that God offers us life at every moment, forgiving us and inviting us into the freshness of new beginnings. Let us praise this God of grace!**

**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**

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.**

*(Children and youth may now go to their classes.)*

**\*HYMN #493**

*"O Jesus, I Have Promised"*

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

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE**

Habbakuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

(O.T. p.p. 974-975)

**NEW TESTAMENT**

Luke 19:1-10

(N.T. p. 84)

**SERMON**

The Glorious Diana Sweeney

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

arr. Brian Lew

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

Jesus Christ came into the world to seek out and save the lost. The offering becomes the high point of worship when we are centered on the steadfast love of God. Then our possessions become instruments of grace, for us and others, and the lost are found.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #562, v. 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

**We are so small, O God, sometimes we do not see you over the crowds that clutter the streets. Forgive us, God, for we should go to all lengths to see you, even climbing trees for a glimpse of you. Take our offering, Lord, and make miracles of our hopes and dreams.**

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

\*HYMN #539

*“Amazing Grace*

### 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

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Fred Merrill & Jo Worthen

Jo Worthen

Diaconate, & Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell & Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Susan Handy

Jeff DeLange

Elaine Hodnett

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 8:30 AM – 3:00 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)



Habbakuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. 2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? 3 Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. 4 So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous— therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

1 I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. 2 Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. 3 For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. 4 Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

Luke 19:1-10

1 He entered Jericho and was passing through it.

2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich.

3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."

6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.

7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner."

8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much."

9 Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.