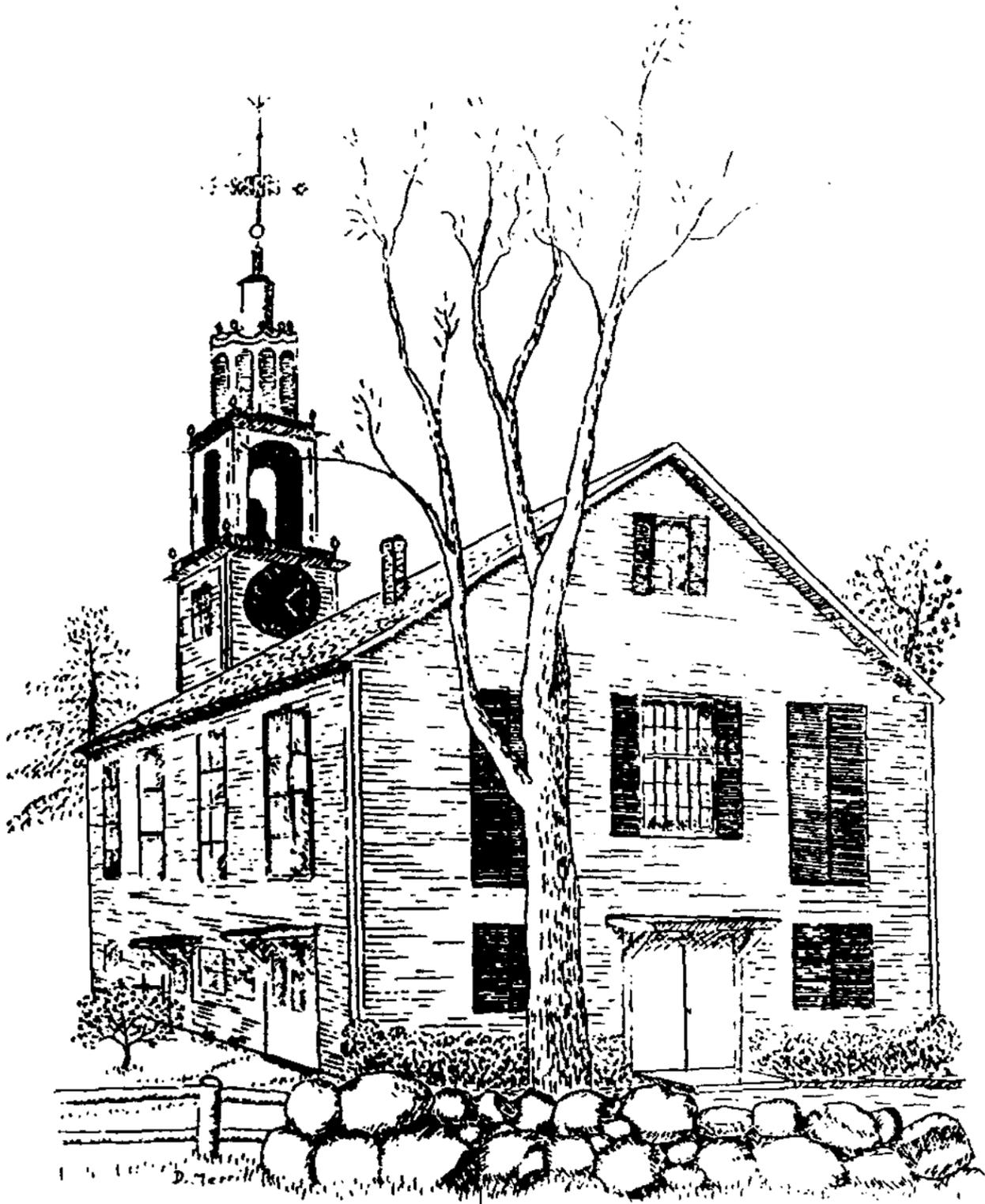


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**November 13, 2016**

**Consecration Sunday**



*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)

**November 13, 2016**

**Thirty-Third 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  
HONORING OUR VETERANS**

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

\*HYMN #368

*"My Hope is Built"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is ready to answer us, even before we call.

**All: The hills sing together before God's presence.**

One: God is eager to listen, though we are not ready to speak.

**All: All of nature proclaims God's glory.**

One: If the seas join in praise, how much more should we?

**All: Make a joyful noise to God, all people of the earth!**

\*INVOCATION

**God of hosts, our strength and our salvation, there are no words large enough to praise you. No response by us can match the love you have shown us. Gather us now in your warm embrace that our faith may be renewed and our work empowered to the honor and glory of your holy name. 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.**

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 are excused to go to their classes at this time.)

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH MISSION**

HYMN #495      *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

MISSION MOMENT      Pinkerton's Homeless      Nancy Cofrin

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

OLD TESTAMENT      Isaiah 65:17-25      (O.T. p. 772)

GOSPEL      Luke 21:5-19      (N.T. p. 87)

SERMON      "Opportunities to Testify"      The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM      "The First Song of Isaiah"      Jack Noble White

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

INVITATION TO COME FORWARD WITH PLEDGES

The Bible often speaks of first fruits being offered before the altar of God. We have the opportunity to give thanks through the offering of ourselves, our finances and our possessions to the work God calls us to do. Please bring your pledge envelopes forward at this time.

CONSECRATING OUR PLEDGES

(Please join Pastor Deborah by raising your hands in blessing.)

We rejoice in this opportunity to thank you, Gracious God. We ask your blessing on these promises to live into your world with our income. May your abundance be known and our promises be multiplied in your name and to your glory. Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We cannot repay God for our lives, our minds, the beauty of earth and sky, We enjoy an abundance of resources. We can respond with acts of gratitude and kindness, with generosity and thanksgiving. Let us receive this morning's offering.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*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

**We rejoice, O God, in the new world you are creating within us and around us. We give thanks for the joy we find in the church as we draw water from the wells of salvation. It is our intention to share the joy, to proclaim your Word among all nations, to work quietly and enthusiastically for a world where your love reigns. To these ends, we dedicate our offerings. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #611

*“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Diaconate

LAY READER

Brian Williams

USHERS

Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Sue Hunt & Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Diane Breeden

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Susan Handy

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

Jeff DeLangie

**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)



### **Isaiah 65:17-25**

**17** For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

**18** But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

**19** I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

**20** No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

**21** They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

**22** They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

**23** They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord – and their descendants as well.

**24** Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

**25** The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent – its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

### **Luke 21:5-19**

**5** When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said,

**6** "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

**7** They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

**8** And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

**9** "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately."

**10** Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;

**11** there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

**12** "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

**13** This will give you an opportunity to testify.

**14** So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance;

**15** for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

**16** You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

**17** You will be hated by all because of my name.

**18** But not a hair of your head will perish.

**19** By your endurance you will gain your souls.