

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 20, 2017 Proper 15



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)

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; GOT GRATITUDE?
SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit.)

One: Let all the people praise the God of all nations.

All: Let us give thanks and enjoy the blessings God gives.

One: May God grant us understanding and courage.

All: May faith grow beyond our doubts.

One: Let all the ends of the earth revere our Creator.

All: God brings us together in unity of purpose.

*HYMN #423 - Great is Thy Faithfulness

*INVOCATION

God of many blessings, whose gifts to us are more numerous than we can count, show us how to use these benefits according to your will and purpose, that opportunities may be opened for all your children and unity may become a reality among us. May we know a taste of eternal life in the quality of our mutual caring and our sharing with a needy world. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE

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

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

*HYMN #179 We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! ²
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 15:10-28

¹⁰ Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”

¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

SERMON

Claiming God's Grace

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH SONG AND PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

“How Long?”

Pepper Choplin

How long, how long 'til this world is free from suffering?
How long, how long 'til blessed peace will reign?
How long, how long 'til the power of love will come and heaven's will is done?
How long, how long? How long 'til every gun is silenced?
How long, how long 'til hate and war shall end; 'til every battle's thunder will fade to blessed peace and sounds of war will cease?

How long, how long?
Press on, press on, let faith and hope sustain you.
Press on, press on, keep working for the day
when all of God's children will live in peace as one.
Until that new day comes, press on, press on.

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

For many in the world, famine is a constant reality. Millions lie down at night hungry and without shelter, with no better hope for tomorrow. There is no relief from illness for themselves or for their children. God is a distant unknown. Their betterment is a part of our mission.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As you have blessed us, O God, we are eager to share. May we offer more than crumbs from your table. May none be sent away from the blessings you intend for all. What is in the offering plates is only a part of what we dedicate ourselves to do and be that your reign of unity and peace may come. Amen.

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

*HYMN #388 Help Us Accept Each Other

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated until the postlude has concluded.)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS Stanley and Holly Gorgol, Tom and Andrea Cooper and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s) Connie Cox

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR Susan Handy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST Christine Lehoullier

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Diane Dunn and Reni Harnden

Reni Harnden

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier