

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 6, 2017

Communion Sunday



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 6, 2017 **Communion Sunday**

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: Come into the presence of God to be fed.

All: Let us incline our ears to hear what God would teach.

One: Come to praise God and receive a blessing.

All: Let us renew our covenant with the living God.

***HYMN #86 - When Morning Guilds the Skies**

***INVOCATION**

We are in awe before you, O God, for you have provided for us in rich abundance. The earth is full of your provisions. There is beauty all around us from the work of your hands. You have surrounded us with people who care about us with the love of Christ. Help us, O God, to count our blessing.

***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

All of us need times of wrestling with God over issues in our lives. Let us bring our distress to this time of confessing the sin in which all of us have a part.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of justice and righteousness, whose compassion for humankind was expressed so vividly in Jesus of Nazareth, we bring to you our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, and we have sometimes joined in their destructive ways. Restore your covenant among us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is merciful, patient, kind, and loving. Celebrate the refreshment God offers.

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 #327

"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

Christine Lehoullier

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*HYMN #347 – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

OUR SACRED STORY with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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.

SHARING the MEAL

We celebrate Communion this morning by Intinction (dipping your wafer into the cup). This morning we use **gluten free** wafers for Communion. You are invited to come forward where you will be invited to receive a wafer 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.

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

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 32:22-31

(O.T. p.33)

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 14:13-21

(N.T. p.16)

SERMON "As We Are Blessed – So We Must Bless" The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

*HYMN #502 - Dear God, Embracing Humankind

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has created a world of abundance for everyone. Yet many do not share in the bounty. Christ calls us to find sufficiency among us and to make sure that all are fed. We give as we have been blessed.

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

Thank you, God, for all you have given to satisfy our needs. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offerings proclaim your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Amen.

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

*HYMN #451 - Be Now My Vision

BENEDICTION

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

GREETER(s)

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ryan Lehoullier

Diaconate and Michael Bryan

Shirley Dickason and Verna Elwell

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier