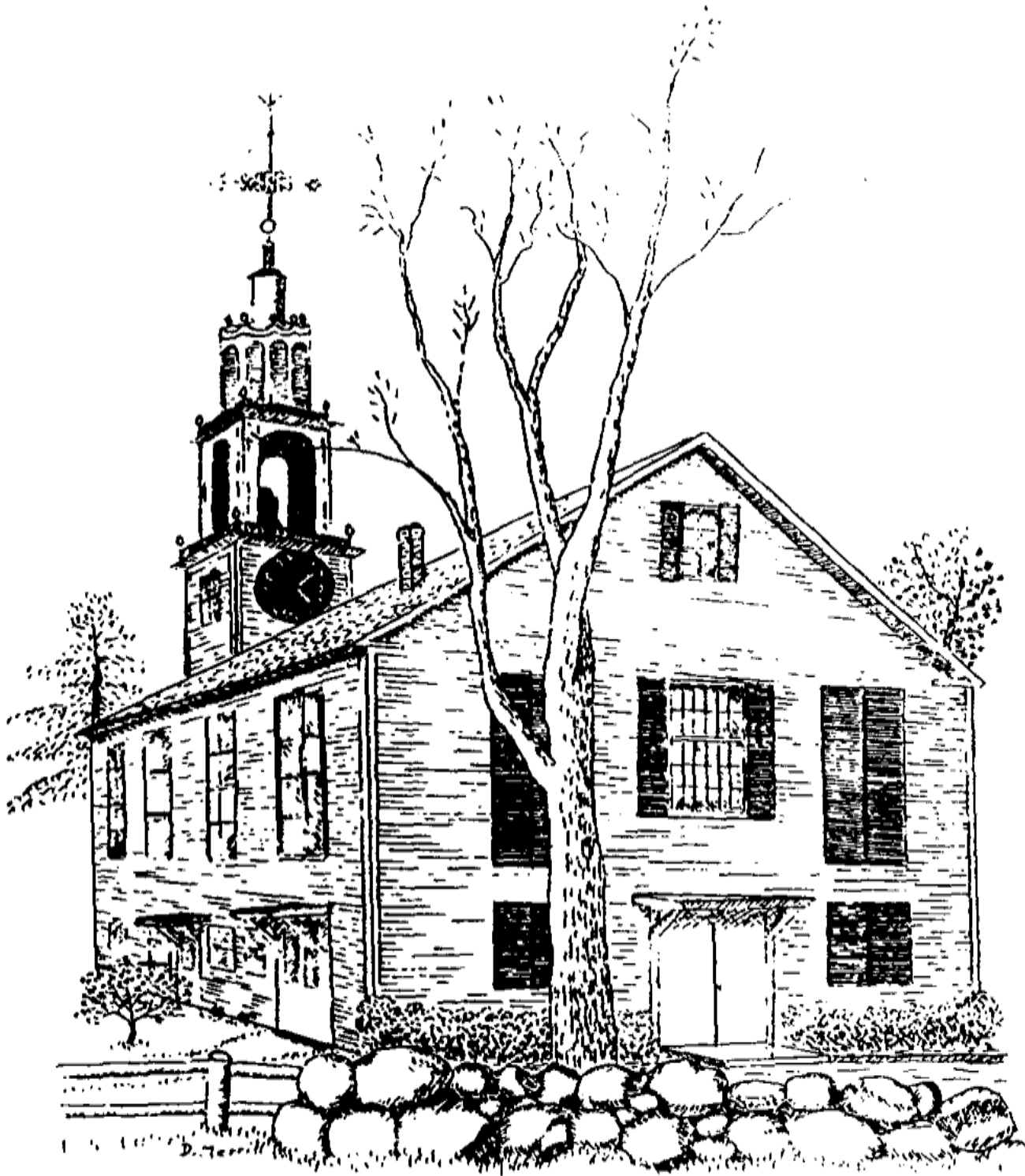


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

February 5, 2017 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



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)

February 5, 2017

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Black History Month

In 1785 our congregational forebears ordained Lemuel Haynes, this country's first African American minister to be ordained by a Protestant denomination. Rev. Haynes becomes a world-renowned preacher and writer. He wrote: "Liberty is equally as precious to a black man, as it is to a white one, and bondage as equally intolerable to the one as it is to the other".

WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*HYMN #49 *"O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We delight to draw near to you, gracious God.

All: We lift up our hearts and voices in praise

One: We gather to remember God's abundance.

All: The love of God draws us away from the world's agenda.

*INVOCATION

May our voices rise like trumpets to greet you, holy God. May our ears be attuned to know your ways. May our hearts be steady, focused on you. Praise be to you, O God, whom we worship with awe and delight. Guide us, we pray, in this time of worship. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #759 Gloria Patri

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have come together, not to be confirmed in our prejudices, but to be changed, not be affirmed for our righteousness, but to uncover the immaturity of our faith that we might grow. Let us confess to God our failure to live by the vision God sets before us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God, you call out to us, saying "Here I am". You pour out on us spiritual gifts. You call us to build a more just society. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to embrace these things. Help us so to know and understand Jesus Christ that we might reflect the God of glory in our daily living. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, God has prepared for all who love God and are open to the Spirit's revelations.

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

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all,

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Communion Invitation"

Courtney/Martin

OUR SACRED STORY

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 bread into the cup). All of the bread we use for Communion is now **gluten free**. You are invited to come forward where you will be invited to receive a morsel 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.

(Children up through grade 4 are excused to go to their classes at this time.)

HYMN #531

"God Speak to Me"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 112:1-9 (10)

(O.T. p. 542)

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:13-20

(N.T.p.282)

SERMON

"What Good Is Salt?"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

Light of the World

Schwartz

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

How generous are the gifts of God, poured out on us that we might know the joy of giving! The psalmist reminds us that it is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice and give to the poor. Our offerings proclaim God's will in word and deed.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780,

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below, Praise God above, you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Righteous God, accept our gifts of gratitude for the dawning awareness among us of your healing. Let our righteousness and generosity exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. Fill us with yearning for the Spirit of Christ that we might become salt and light and be empowered for good works, to your honor and glory. Amen.

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

*HYMN #524

"This Little Light of Mine"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Ken Gould and Julie Turner

LAY READER

Reni Harnden

USHERS

Diaconate and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Susan Handy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Christine Lehoullier

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

Chris Ferrin

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hannah Collier

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 Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc

