

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

January 1, 2017 New Year's Day



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)

January 1, 2017

New Year's Day

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 #51 *"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome this New Year as the time of God's presence.

Our Creator offers us a new heaven and a new earth

All: This is the season for rebirth of our best.

God has gifted us with new opportunities.

One: God is making all new things.

Mourning, crying, and pain cannot prevail

All: We have come to praise and thank God.

How majestic is God's name in all the earth!

*INVOCATION

In-Dwelling God, we greet you in this New Year. As centuries come and go, your presence is ever new when we open our senses to receive you.

Sharpen our awareness of your creative energy at work within and around us. Let us welcome you in the stranger who is not yet a friend, in the hungry who need the food and care we might provide, in the nurse who fulfills our thirst for water and kindness. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #125 Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo

CALL TO CONFESSION

In awe before God's creation- a sky full of distant suns, and a tiny planet nurtured by one small star among them- we see our own relative insignificance. Before such a God, we bow in humble repentance.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of all creation. The world of our prayers is so small, and the needs of your people are so great. We have missed your realm among us when we ignored those around us who were ignored those around us who were thirsty and hungry, when we turned away from prisoners and people in suffering. Restore us to full communion with your children. We want to be forgiven, we want to change. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The promise of eternal life is meant for each one of us, and all of us together. Our lives begin to experience eternity when they focus beyond ourselves. Experience anew the wonders of God's creation. Take time to discover God's presence in another human being today. The new heaven and earth will be yours.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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.**

HYMN #145

"Once in Royal David's City"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	(O.T. p. 683)
	Psalms 8	(O.T. p. 542)
NEW TESTAMENT	Revelation 21:1-6a	(N.T.p.282)
GOSPEL	Matthew 25:31-46	(N.T. p. 29)
SERMON	"A New Freedom"	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

For everything there is a season. Always there is occasion for gratitude. One expression of our thanks to God is this time of tangible sharing. We give that God's will may be more fully realized as we dedicate ourselves and our gifts toward meeting others in their time of need.

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

May our hands extend a blessing to friends and strangers who hunger, or thirst, or shiver in the cold. May our presence comfort and inspire persons who are sick or in prison. May our witness to your gift of newness help to make it real to those who can only look backward. Help us all to face the future, trusting you, as we join you in wiping away tears and caring for the least and the lost. Amen.

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

*HYMN #160

"Jesus, the Light of the World"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

PASTOR

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation
Reni Harnden and Cindy Pingree
Cindy Pingree
Diaconate and Michael Bryan
Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Susan Handy
Jeff DeLangie
Hannah Collier

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PO BOX 114, 47 East Derry Rd East Derry, NH 03041 Tel. 603.434.0628 Fax. 603.437.3001

Email: officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

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

