

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 29, 2017      Fourth 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)

*January 29, 2017*

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**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**

POSTLUDE

\*HYMN #49

*"Ask Me What Great Things I Know"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus taught: Blessed are the poor in spirit.  
He said that the realm of God is theirs.

**All: We read that those who mourn are blessed.  
Jesus said they will be comforted.**

One: The meek will inherit the earth.  
The merciful will obtain mercy.

**All: All who hunger and thirst for rich treasures are blessed;  
Jesus said they will be filled.**

One: Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers;  
They are God's children and will see God.

**All: Those persecuted and falsely accused are blessed  
Even in the face of evil, we will rejoice.**

\*INVOCATION

**Let the mountain hear our voices raised in prayer and praise, wise and holy God. We gather in this place to honor and adore you. We come humbly, giving thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness, and we invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #759 Gloria Patri

**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

## 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.)

## HYMN #454

*"Lord I Want to Be A Christian"*

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

### OLD TESTAMENT

Micah 6:1-8

(O.T. p. 966)

### NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:1-12

(N.T.p.4)

### REFLECTION

Dave McGrath

### CHOIR ANTHEM

"Blest Are They"

David Haas

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### CHOIR RESPONSE

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

God is neither pleased with burnt offerings nor impressed by the size of our gifts. God wants our full commitment and devotion, of which our giving in these moments is only a symbol. God calls us to lives of mercy and peacemaking, for which our offering can make a beginning.

## 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

**We devote ourselves and these tokens of our thankfulness toward the realization of your reign among us, holy God. We pray for purity of heart as we hunger and thirst for your righteousness and as we seek to be peacemakers. We rejoice in this opportunity to share in the extension of your realm. Bless us and our offering, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #193

*"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Dona Nobis Pacem

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

Diane Breeden

John Bartel, Kevin Gordon

Diane Gordon and Michael Bryan

Mark Pingree and Nancy Magee

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier

### First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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

Email: [officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 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)

