

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

July 16, 2017

Proper 10



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; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

All: **Let us open ourselves this day to receive the Word.**

One: Let us open ourselves to the Spirit.

All: **We long to know Love's embrace deep within.**

One: The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead.

All: **That same Spirit dwells in us and offers us new life.**

***HYMN #319 – Wonderful Words of Life**

***INVOCATION**

Spirit of Life, whose care for us is constant. Teach us your ways that we might not forget your love. May your presence be our joy as you incline our hearts to follow you, that we may bear fruit in our realm, even a hundredfold. Amen.

***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.

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

Anne Marie Merrill

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.

*HYMN #292 – Breathe on Me, Breath of God

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 119:105-112

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
108 Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.
109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 Let anyone with ears listen!”

SERMON

“Let anyone with ears, listen!”

Pastor Deborah

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God's Word has been sown among us. We are the soils, receiving seeds of truth. The harvest depends on our accepting the Word, letting it take root and getting rid of the weeds. What we offer to God is a small return on God's investment in us. Let us give with joy.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

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

Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our financial contributions toward our church's mission. You have given us life and guidance for living. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm. Amen.

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

*HYMN #433 – Hymn of Promise

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

Ken Gould and Julie Turner

LAY READER

Julie Turner

USHERS

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

GREETER(s)

Maury Davidson

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

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 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Our website www.fpc-ucc.org Find us and 'friend us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/fpcucc

