

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 23, 2017

Proper 11



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)

July 23, 2017

Proper 11

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 knows when we sit down and when we rise up

All: God is acquainted with all our ways.

One: God's hand is ever available to guide us.

All: Such knowledge is a wonder to us.

One: Darkness is as light to our God.

All: God illuminates the way before us.

*HYMN - Gather Us In (insert)

*INVOCATION

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. We gather with eager longing to know you, ever-present God, and to be known by you. We want to live as your beloved children. May every time of encounter move us to awe and fervent worship. Lead us in your way everlasting. 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

Sarah Keller

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 # 22 - Sing Praise to God

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 139:1-12

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

SERMON

"Known to God"

Pastor Deborah

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are debtors to God, who has given us the precious gift of life. We were created of good seed in God's own image that we might bear fruit for God's realm. We have the capacity to dream and envision a better world, free of the sin that so often seems to choke out the good. Through our offerings we give support to our common mission.

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

Thank you, God, for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors. We are grateful that your spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God. May all of us grow in righteousness that we might together do the work of Christ here on earth. Amen.

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

*HYMN #570 - We Shall Overcome

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

Ken Gould and Julie Turner

Diane Dunn

Verna Elwell, Sue Hunt and Michael Bryan

Diane Breeden

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

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

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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

