

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

March 26, 2017

Fourth Sunday in Lent



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)

*March 26, 2017*

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

**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

\*HYMN #252                      *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead us"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God summons us to wake up and see.

**All: Our eyes have been opened to God's goodness.**

One: God sees beyond our outward appearance.

**All: We are here to find out what is pleasing to God.**

One: God listens to all who worship sincerely.

**All: We seek to know and follow God's will.**

\*INVOCATION

**Holy God, we sense your involvement in our lives. Like a shepherd, you watch over us and provide abundantly beyond our needs. You lead us in the right paths when we are tempted to go astray. You refresh us with living water that overflows with your generosity. Let your light shine on us now to reveal truth we have not seen and open our eyes to possibilities we may not have realized. May we be receptive to learn from you and from one another. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

## **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

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 #247

*"My Shepherd is the Living God"*

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

NEW TESTAMENT

John 9:1-41

(N.T.p.105)

SERMON

"Knowing When We're Blind"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

Until I Found the Lord

Andre Thomas

### **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these gifts with one another in the life of this community and far beyond our own reach. In this offering, we return to God with eager response to all we have received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Loving God, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our tithes and offerings and our investment of time and energy in tasks to which you call us. All this we offer now for your blessing. Apart from you, the light goes out of our lives and we slip into meaningless existence. Let us, rather, dwell in you and serve you wherever we go. Amen.**

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

**\*HYMN #451**

*"Be Now My Vision"*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

**MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH**

**DEACONS OF THE MONTH**

**LAY READER**

**USHERS**

Members of the Congregation

Julie Dubisz and Joanne Worthen

Diana Sweeney and Cyndi Gray

Stanley & Holly Gorgol

Tom Cooper, Becky Fleury and Michael Bryan

Diane Breeden

**GREETER(s)**

**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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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)