

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 5, 2017**

**First Sunday In Lent**



*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)

*March 5, 2017*

*First Sunday In Lent*

**WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

PRELUDE

\*HYMN #351

*"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have entered into the season of Lent.

**All: We have entered a wilderness time.**

One: The day of worship is an oasis in the desert.

**All: We remember God's overflowing generosity.**

\*INVOCATION

**We listen for your voice, holy God, amid the clamor of a world that scarcely notices this season of self-examination and instruction. Too long we have heeded the serpents among us whose craftiness beckons us away from faith and faithfulness. Lead us, faithful spirit, through the wilderness of our own creation. May we find our way to you. Help us rediscover your steadfast love. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Too long we have heeded the seductive voice of the serpent. How easy it is to seek the good life apart from God, to trust in our possessions and revel in beguiling attractions that focus only on our own pleasure.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Holy God, we confess our transgressions before you. We want life to revolve around us. We want other people to fit into the patterns that serve us best. We have tried to live apart from you. We sense that something is missing from our lives. Will you walk with us in this season and help us become all we are created to be?**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace comes to us as a gift. We cannot earn it, but we can reject it. When we are responsive to God's leading, when we open our lives to God in prayer, we may recognize the abiding gifts of the Spirit. Happy are those who accept God's forgiveness!

**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

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.**

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION***

INVITATION TO THE TABLE with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Break the Bread, Pour the Wine"*

Mark Hayes

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.**

(Children up through grade 4 are excused to go to their classes at this time.)

HYMN #211

*"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"*

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

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

(O.T. p. 2 & 3)

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 4:1-11

(N.T.p.3)

SERMON

Response - Ability

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

It Is Well with My Soul

John Ness Beck

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

As with Adam and Eve, our greed and pretensions are exposed before God. It is so tempting to want more of everything for ourselves. Yet, it is strangely true that only in generous sharing do we finally realize that we have enough, that God has blessed us richly beyond anything we could ever deserve. Let us give with gladness.

### 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

**By your surprising grace, O God, our eyes are opened, our ears unstopped, our hearts attuned to the needs of others. We give so more people may know your acceptance and forgiveness. We give so to support the ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing among us and through the outreach of the church. Amen.**

## WE RESPOND WITH BLESSING

Gratitude for service and blessing of newly elected servants of the church.

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

\*HYMN #224

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*\*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

Members of the Congregation

Julie Dubisz and Joanne Worthen

Ryan Lehoullier

Diaconate and Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

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)

