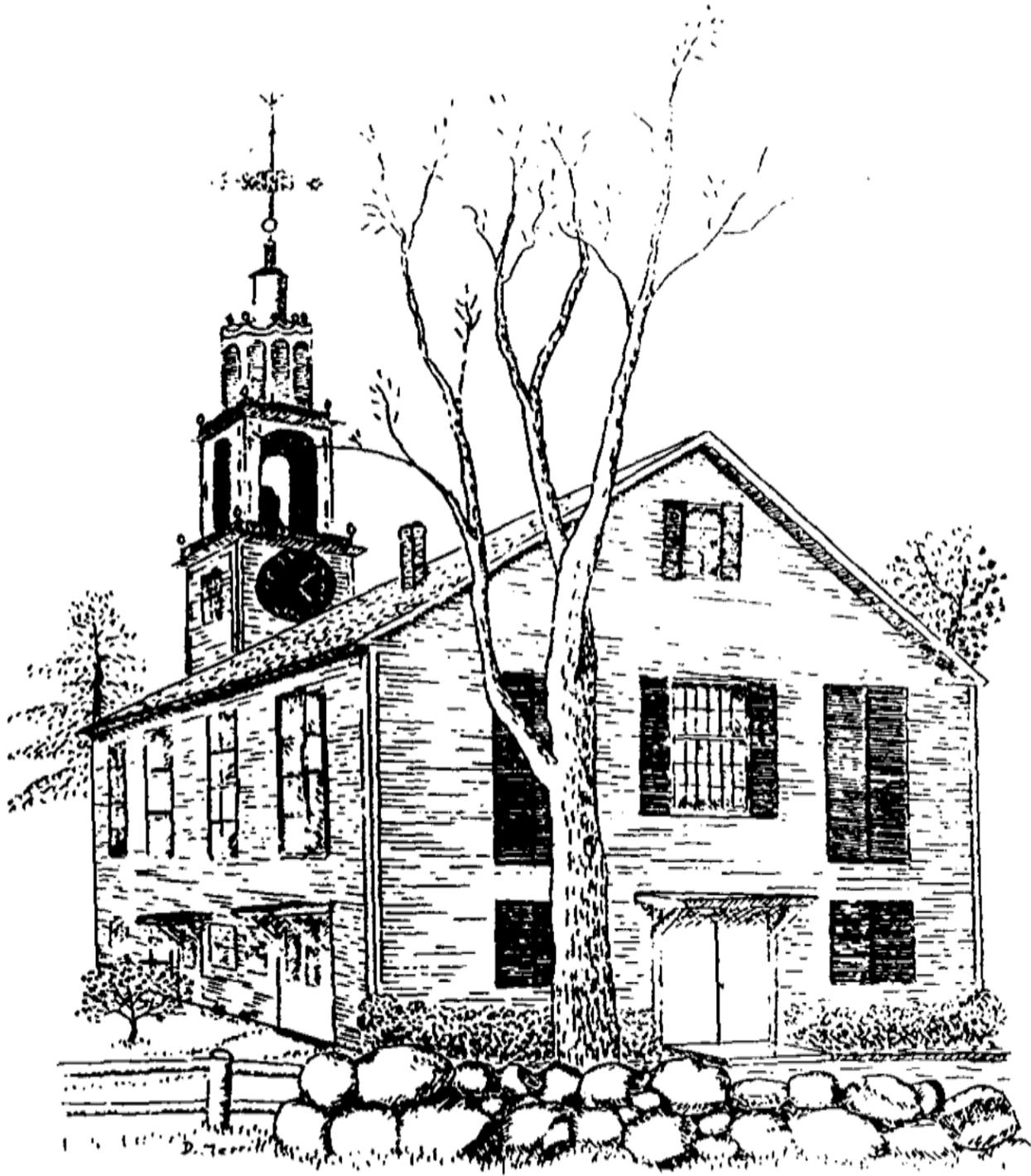


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**May 28, 2017      Seventh Sunday of Easter**



*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)

*May 28, 2017*

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

PRELUDE

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Recognition of Memorial Day and Prayer:

Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the men and women of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving.

***(Moment of silence)***

May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace and may we be ever grateful for their service. With Your wisdom and strength please guide our nation's leaders and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 527

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let all the nations worship God!

**All: God reigns over earth and the farthest heavens.**

One: In this place we pray together for God's guidance.

**All: Let us experience eternity in the midst of time.**

\*INVOCATION

**We worship you with joy, awesome God. Through times of trial and suffering, your love has sustained us. You have restored our self-confidence when we floundered in doubt and fear. You have been our protector through the wilderness. May our worship honor you and equip us to serve you. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #756

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

(You may be seated.)

## **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 "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing"  
I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing (3X)  
And obey the Spirit of the Lord"

### **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**

Julie Turner

### **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 NO. 591**

"This is My Song"

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

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 1:6-14 (N.T.p 122)

GOSPEL John 17:1-11 (N.T.p 115)

SERMON Cloud of Witnesses The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM "In Flanders Fields" Jacobson/Emerson

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

As Christians, we are often challenged to live by a standard that insists on justice and fairness. No one is to be exploited for our gain. Our church is called to be a beacon of hope for all people. We give ourselves and our offering that God's will might be realized among us.

(The Ushers will now receive your financial gifts.)

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

**Thank you, God, for empowering our prayers and multiplying our gifts. You provide for the needy through us. What a privilege! May your power work in us. Blessed be your name, O God! Amen.**

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

\*HYMN NO. (insert) "America the Beautiful"

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Ryan Lehoullier and Diane Dunn

LAY READER

Reni Harnden

USHERS

Ken Gould, Shirley Dickason, Dee Deranian and Michael Bryan

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**

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)