

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 7, 2017**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**



**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 7, 2017**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

\*HYMN #293

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How awesome to gather before God!

**All: We are here to celebrate with wide-eyed wonder.**

One: The God of all worlds is with us.

**All: Praise God for this season of Easter.**

\*INVOCATION

**Let us hear your voice today, O Shepherd. Call our names and claim us as your own. Lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Comfort those who suffer pain and loss. Assure all who are afraid. Lead us in right paths for your name's sake. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #756

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Scriptures compare us to sheep who have gone astray. We have become ravenous consumers rather than good stewards of God's abundance. Christ calls us to respond to the Shepherd's voice.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**O God, we do not want to admit that our possessions possess us. Yet we do seem captive to all things we have acquired and all the things we want. We are reluctant to share too much, lest we be deprived of all comforts we cherish. O God, help us trust you beyond these limits. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**God provides for us as a good shepherd provides for a flock of sheep, seeking green pastures and still waters for us even in periods of famine and drought. In fearful times, amid loss, the Shepherd's care is always available. Surely God's goodness and mercy will restore us.**

**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

Christine Lehoullier

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

*HYMN #330 (remain seated)*

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

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.**

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

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 23 (O.T. p.553)  
(Children up through grade 4 are excused to go to their classes at this time.)

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

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 2:42-47 (O.T. p.123)

GOSPEL John 10:11-21 (N.T.p.107)

SERMON "Wonders and Signs" The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

SPECIAL MUSIC

### **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our cups overflow with the abundance of God's mercy. There is more than enough for all when we who break bread together are willing to share ourselves and our possessions.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #780,

**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 abundant life we enjoy, not in the things we possess but in the relationships you offer and the opportunities for sharing that you provide. May all that we here dedicate to you be distributed in ways that meet human need and offer praise to you. Extend our outreach beyond our vision that we may live in awe and wonder before you, marveling before your goodness and mercy. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #575

“O For a World”

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  
Ryan Lehoullier and Diane Dunn  
Joanne Worthen  
Diaconate and Michael Bryan

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
Susan Handy  
Christine Lehoullier  
Chris Ferrin  
Hannah Collier

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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)

