

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

**November 12, 2017 Consecration Sunday**



WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

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)

**November 12, 2017      Consecration Sunday and Honoring Veterans**

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

CHIMES

GATHERING MUSIC: PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

PROCESSION      LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT      (Acolyte: Katelyn Raymond)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

(Please introduce yourself; give a brief description at this time; ask people to seek you out after worship.)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit.)

One: We seek to know God and to rejoice before our creator.

**All: We know that God is beyond all our false images.**

One: We want to give joyous expression to a growing faith.

**All: We choose to serve the God whom Jesus revealed.**

One: Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgement.

**All: Our trust is in God's love, greater than our tiny imitation.**

\*HYMN: (insert) The Summons

\*INVOCATION

**God of our ancestors, be our God today as we gather in sincerity and faithfulness to honor you. Attune our hearts to your love as we remember your mighty acts. O God, save us from the idols that appear so attractive to us, the toys that take so much of our attention and the pursuits that dominate our time. Make your dwelling place with us, we humbly pray. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #236

**Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.**

**Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.**

**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

*“Come as a Child”*

**Come as a child, when He calls you to follow.**

**Just come as a child, for His love is untold. Come as a child, when you seek His communion, for then, all His blessings unfold.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**In our hearts these gifts we bring; for you give us everything. Teach us how to follow you; in all we say and all we do. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Christine Lehoullier

## 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.**

## WE ARE CALLED INTO GOD'S SERVICE

Moment for Stewardship

Margie Ives

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

\*HYMN #370 – What Gift Can We Bring

### OLD TESTAMENT

#### Psalm 78:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

<sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

<sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

<sup>5</sup> He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

### NEW TESTAMENT

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### GOSPEL

#### Matthew 25:1-13

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup> But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON "Journey To Generosity – Week 4"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Keep Your Lamps!”

Arr. Andre Thomas

LITANY OF APPRECIATION FOR OUR VETERANS (insert)

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

One: Today we receive not only our offerings, but also our financial pledges for 2018. This is crucial for keeping the flame of God’s care and compassion well-lit in the coming year.

**Many: Our money helps keep the light of Christ’s love glowing brightly at First Parish Congregational Church by sustaining the building, supporting the pastor and the staff, as well as providing all the materials that make up our ministry of worship, Christian education, healing, and justice available to all in need.**

One: Our contributions flow out into the world to help those in need via many community missions, agencies and individuals giving hope and rebuilding lives.

**Many: How will our neighbors be prepared for times of crisis? Who will teach them where to find oil for their lamps? Who will help them discover spiritual riches more valuable than all their material possessions?**

One: Our church is a resource, and our ministry is for the whole world.

**Many: Let us give our support wholeheartedly and with joy!**

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #562 – Take My Gifts

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free, now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We dedicate our gifts to you, O God; help us to use them to glorify you; to be vessels of your work in this world. We dedicate our pledges to you, O God; guide our leaders as they prepare us financially for the upcoming year. We set our hope in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our promises and our offerings - that our efforts may encourage and equip one another for ministry. May your love shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #312 – We Love Your Realm, O God

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Reni Harnden and Cindy Pingree

LAY READER

Reni Harnden

USHERS

Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Nancy Berry, Pat Cefaly and Michael Bryan

GREETER(S)

Betsy McCall

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