

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 19, 2017 Proper 28



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)

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

GATHERING MUSIC: PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Laila Barcomb

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: Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God.

All: Let us attune our spirits to the One in whom we dwell.

One: God's love surrounds us here today.

All: God calls us to be children of light.

One: Let us seek to be faithful to the One we seek to know.

All: Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance.

One: Let us use this time to build one another up.

All: May our worship encourage each of us today.

*HYMN: #422 – Come, O Thankful People Come

*INVOCATION

Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding Presence. Awaken our spirits to realities unseen. Turn us from the dullness of our fear-filled grasping for security and help us to live with trust in you. Be with us as we enter into the joy of serving in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 CHOIR

"We Are The Church"

Arr. Avery & Marsh

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathryn Cobban

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 HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

*HYMN: #425 – For the Fruits of This Creation

NEW TESTAMENT

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'

²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

SERMON

"Depends on Your Point of View"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Arr. Mark Hayes

GUEST ACCOMPANIST:

Jeff Delangie

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

All that we have and all that we are belongs to God. The pinnacle of worship is an accounting and sharing of our financial stewardship. Are we serving God with our treasure? May we give with thankfulness 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

O Spirit of Holiness, We offer an accounting of our stewardship in and beyond the offering of this day. Reshape our lives for joyous, responsive participation in work that builds up the body of Christ. Use what we offer here to bring encouragement and hope to many who have lost a sense of meaning for their lives. Bless us and our offerings. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #423 – Great is Your Faithfulness

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

USHERS John Bartel, Brian Williams, Pat Cefaly, Joan Crimlisk, and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Reni Harnden and Cindy Pingree

Cindy Pingree

Liz Greenberg

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier