

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

October 1, 2017 World Communion



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)

October 1, 2017 World Communion

WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

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

One: Come, let us remember God's presence with us.

All: Let us give ear to all that God would teach us.

One: Our ancestors have told us about God's compassion.

All: Let us celebrate God's wondrous presence.

***HYMN #355 – God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian**

***INVOCATION**

We marvel, O God, at the thought that you care so much about us. We are amazed that the Creator of the universe would take on humane flesh to draw near to us in ways we can't begin to understand. Help us to humble ourselves in order to hear, to care, and to serve. Lead us day and night through the dangers of the wilderness of our times. Lead us in these moments to honest and fervent worship. Amen.

***SONG OF PRAISE #236**

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

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like the chief priests and scribes of Jesus' day, we are tempted to confuse our ways for God's ways. We trust our own authority and defend the way we live. We see the sins of others more readily than we see our own. We need to pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy God, you may require changes in us that we are costly. You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. We fear loss of security if we are obedient. It is hard to see ourselves as exploiters. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like victims. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God accepts us in the midst of our struggles. There is encouragement in Christ, there is consolation from love, there is compassion, sympathy, and the opportunity to share in the Spirit. God blesses us as we gather in community, calling us to find our common mind in Christ Jesus. May our lives praise God.

CHIME CHOIR

"As We Gather at the Table" arranged by Kevin McChesney

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

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

Katie Cobban

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

ANTHEM

Come, All Who Thirst

Cherubini/Hopson

*Trio: Sarah Keller, Bart Wetherbee, Sue Handy

OUR SACRED STORY with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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 wafer into the cup). This morning we will use BOTH gluten AND **gluten free** bread for Communion. **The gluten free bread will be served by Pastor Deborah.** 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.

HYMN #223 – What Wondrous Love is This? Please remain seated, singing prayerfully.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT	Philippians 2:1-13	(N.T. p.210)
GOSPEL	Matthew 21:23-32	(N.T. p.24)
SERMON	How does "the World" take Communion today?	
CHOIR ANTHEM	"One Song"	Pepper Choplin

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER
CHOIR RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

As Christ gave up selfish ambition and conceit for human beings like us, may we offer our best for sisters and brothers who need the message we can send and the practical help we can provide through our offerings.

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 empty our pockets, trusting you, O God. We empty our selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We give because you have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in your service because you have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you have called us to love. May every tongue confessing Christ as Savior share in that mind which so powerfully demonstrates your love. Amen.

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

*HYMN #304 – All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE (**Please remember to remain seated** until the postlude has concluded.)

**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

Joanne Worthen and Ryan Lehoullier

Ken Gould

Diaconate and Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier