

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 15, 2017 10:00am Laity 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)

October 15, 2017 Laity Sunday

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

PROCESSION LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT (Acolyte: Charlotte Dugan)

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: O clap your hands, all you people, shout unto God with the voice of triumph!

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises. Sing praises unto our King, sing praises.

One: For God is the King of all the earth: sing praises with understanding.

All: Clap your hands, all you people!" (Psalm 47, adapted)

*HYMN: #436 – God of Grace and God of Glory

*INVOCATION

O God of the morning and of the evening hours, let your spirit come on us here gathered. This is the holy place that we, your people, call on you in faith, joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your name. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #236

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

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

READING – Is the Church Listening?

Bart Wetherbee and Marie Greene

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: O God, we have said that we "love" our brothers and our sisters, but we confess it is very difficult to put meaning behind that word.

People: We have traded righteousness for success and security, for power, and for popularity.

Leader: We have said that we "love" our brothers and sisters but we have not translated that into food and clothing and housing.

People: The good that we would do, we do not; and the bad that we would not do, we do.

Leader: We have said we love God, but if we do not love our brothers and sisters whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?

People: We confess that there are times when we do not worship the God of Abraham, but we worship the approval of others, or our own reputations, or our work, or our family, or money. O God, forgive our unfaithfulness. Forgive our following after false gods.

Leader: O God, there are those who thirst for the Living Water.

People: We pray that we may be strong enough to come forward with a cup of cold water for our brothers and our sisters.

Leader: In the name of Christ who ministered unto those in need, we pray.

All: Amen.

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, thank you for all you do for us. Sometimes it's hard being a kid, but we know you are always with us and love us. Help us to be the best we can be, today and every day. 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 HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

*HYMN: #607 – We Would Be Building

CONGREGATIONAL READING: Psalm 47

Nancy Heywood

¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

² For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

³ He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

⁴ He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*

⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷ For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. ^[a]

⁸ God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

⁹ The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

READING OF THE WORD: Matthew 7:21-27

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' ²³ Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.' ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

READING: "Are We Clapping for the Wrong God?"

Rachel Cobban, Steve Davis & Hilary Gorgol

CHOIR ANTHEM

"We're Gonna Have Church"

Pepper Choplin

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Having been given new life through the generosity of God and the hope Christ brings, let us give thankfully and abundantly that we may be called God's generous people.

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 God, through the offering of these gifts, may we become a more open people...
open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom, open-minded in healing a broken
world, open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love. With thanks for
all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves.**

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

*CONGREGATIONAL READING: #887 – A New Creed

*HYMN: #18 – Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

SENDING FORTH

Go now into the world that God, the Creator, has made for you. Go now and tell the story of the God of God, Light of Light, who for our sake sent Jesus, the Christ, that we might be reconciled to the one true God. Go, believing only in God, the Lord and Giver of Life. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

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

Thank you to Beth Hunter for speaking today.

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Joanne Worthen and Ryan Lehoullier

LAY READER

USHERS

John Bartel, Brian Williams, Pat Cefly, Margie Ives and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Beth Hunter

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