

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 24, 2017 10:00am Proper 24

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 24, 2017 Proper 24

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

PROCESSION LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT (Acolyte: Mia Carvalho)

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 are drawn to worship by Reality unseen.

All: The One we call God is beyond human description.

One: God is more than we can ever imagine.

All: We sense God's presence as we live in harmony.

One: We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise.

All: Let us feel God's presence as we sing together.

*HYMN: #26 – We Worship You, O God

*INVOCATION

Appear to us here, God of all worlds, for we need your assurance and blessing. We seek the strength to do what is right and just. We long to see you. O God, help us to be open to all you are revealing to us now. 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

Anne-Marie Merrill

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 #543 – Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 99

¹ The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
² The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
³ Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!
⁴ Mighty King, ^[a] lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.
⁵ Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!
⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those
who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.
⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees,
and the statutes that he gave them.
⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.
⁹ Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy.

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

SERMON

Journey of Generosity

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Shout to the Lord"

Darlene Zschech

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are partners with one another in this land and beyond, seeking to share the benefits of God's creation with all God's children. Let us give 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 God, we here dedicate the gifts you have provided in our money and our
abilities and our time to extended a helping hand and joyous welcome to
every people on the face of the earth. May our efforts find favor with you.
Amen.**

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

*HYMN #448 – Take My Life, God, Let it Be

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

**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

Diane Dunn

USHERS

Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Shirley, Reni Harnden and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Pat Cefaly

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

Welcome to First Parish Church!

We are glad that you are here today and we hope that you feel the presence of God in our midst. If we can do anything to make you feel more welcome please let us know. If you are new to us or if you are known to us and you have a pastoral need, our Pastor would like to speak with you. Please seek her out or email her this week. (pastordebora@fpc-ucc.org)

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

We affirm Christ's call to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We therefore pledge ourselves to be open to and affirming of all people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, family configuration, or cultural background. All who affirm the love of Christ in their lives are welcome into this community and to share fully in its life and ministry. We rejoice in the worth, gifts, and dignity of every person as a child of God.