

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 8, 2017      10:00am      Proper 22**

**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)

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

PRELUDE

PROCESSION 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: God is present with us.

**All: We are ready to listen to God's word.**

One: May our awe before God be pure and enduring.

**All: May our thoughts and our words be acceptable to God.**

\*HYMN #403 – My Hope is Built

\*INVOCATION

**O God, our rock and our redeemer, enlighten us today through the ancient witness of your faithful people. Lead us to desire the guidance of your word. Remind us of your ordinances that are true and righteous altogether. May they shape our living and warn us when we are in error. Work with us to develop right relationships with all your children near and far, we pray in Jesus' name. 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

Sue Handy

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 #172 – Jesus Calls Us

### OLD TESTAMENT                      Psalm 40:1-5

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,  
who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

<sup>5</sup> You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds  
and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

### NEW TESTAMENT    Matthew 8:28-34            Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs

<sup>28</sup> When (Jesus) came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way.

<sup>29</sup> Suddenly they shouted, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" <sup>30</sup> Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them.

<sup>31</sup> The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." <sup>32</sup> And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water.

<sup>33</sup> The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. <sup>34</sup> Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.

REFLECTION on Mental Illness Awareness

Liz Greenberg, LICSW

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Keep On"

Lloyd Larson

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

CHOIR RESPONSE

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has planted a vineyard on this tiny planet we call home. The earth has been blessed with vast resources entrusted to our care. What is produced by our caretaking is the fruit of Gods' realm.

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**

**Ruler of all space and time, we want to be faithful stewards in your vineyard. All that we have is yours. Our lives are in your hands. Help us to use well all that we here devote to the work of your church. Help us manage well, to your honor and glory, all that we retain for ourselves. May we know heaven on earth because you hold first place in our priorities and our daily goal is to serve you. Amen.**

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

**\*HYMN #507 – Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee**

**BLESSING**

**CHORAL BLESSING RESPONSE**

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

*Thank you to Liz Greenberg for speaking today in Pastor Deborah's absence.*

*\*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	Cindy Pingree
USHERS	Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Nancy Berry and Michael Bryan
GREETER(s)	Liz Greenberg
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. ([pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@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.