

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

September 10, 2017 Communion Sunday



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)

September 10, 2017 Communion Sunday

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: This is a day for new beginnings.

All: This is the moment for faithful response.

One: Make melody to God and sing a new song.

All: Praise God for life enriched by love.

*HYMN #388 – Help Us Accept Each Other

*INVOCATION

Glorious God, this is a day of remembering your faithfulness through the centuries, a time for celebrating your vibrant presence with us, a pause of anticipation for the seasons yet to be. We rejoice at the assurance that you take pleasure in us, that we are known by you, called by you, empowered by you to live honorably and humbly, in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #236

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

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our ancestors in the faith sometimes sought vengeance on their enemies. Jesus challenged his friends to listen and reconcile those with whom they disagreed. Let us confess our need for healing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**O God, we have not been faithful to your commands. We have been more ready to condemn than to console and more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence but to gossip about those who are absent. (pause for a moment of silence)
Our sins are destroying us, God. Turn us around to a new way of being. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's healing presence has come among us and dwells within us. Our openness to God's transforming love releases in us the potential for wholeness. We will be amazed at what we can do and who we can be as humble, joyous followers of the One who is the way, the truth, and the life.

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

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sarah Keller

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*HYMN #330 – Let Us Break Bread Together

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 use **gluten free** bread for Communion. You are invited to come forward where you will be invited to receive a morcel 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 #417 – This is the Day of New Beginning

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalm 149

(O.T. p.646)

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 18:15-20

(N.T. p.20)

SERMON

"As We Are Blessed – So We Must Bless"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOR ANTHEM

"Wake up Church"

Pepper Choplin

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We bring symbols of our labor, dedicating them and ourselves to uphold the highest value of human life: compassion. May our offerings be a joyous expression of worship.

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

Holy God, May these offerings unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share your good news. Keep us in your light, as we dedicate our gifts. Amen.

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

*HYMN #393 – Blest Be the Tie That Binds

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE (Please 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

Diane Breeden and Cyndi Gray

Cyndi Gray

John Bartel, Brian Williams and Michael Bryan

Betsy McCall

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier