

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 17, 2017**

**Proper 19**



**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 17, 2017*

*Proper 19*

**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.**

**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: Let us remember God's marvelous works.**

**All: We need not to be afraid whatever happens.**

**One: We are in God's care wherever we go.**

**All: Let us sing the praises of God, our strength and our joy!**

**\*HYMN # 23 – There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

**\*INVOCATION**

**Forgiving God, whose strength enables us to stand against the temptations we face and whose judgement discerns our deepest motives, empower us by your Word. Teach us to embody the spirit of Christ in our relations with one another, and in our care for all people, that oppression may end, desperate needs be met, and mercy be extended to all your children. 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

**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

Ken Williams

## 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

CHOIR ANTHEM	"Moses"	Kook/Beall
OLD TESTAMENT	Exodus 3: 1-8a; 10-12 & Psalm 19	(O.T. p.55 &550)
NEW TESTAMENT	Matthew 18:21-35	(N.T. p.20)
SERMON	Unlimited Willingness	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

## CALL TO CONFESSION

We pass judgement on our brothers and sisters; we quarrel with those whose ways are different from our own. We despise another knowing he is also a child of God. Why? Surely we have much to confess to God.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**O God, of judgement and justice. We have ranked our sisters and brothers by the faulty standards of our society to decide who is worthy of our attention. We have rejected those whom we dislike and have been harsh with those we think do not measure up. We have been quite willing to overlook our own faults as we look down on other people. O God, you have shown us a better way. Save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has compassion on us and releases us from the debts we have accumulated. In the great design of the universe, we are equipped to receive this forgiveness even as we extend it to others. Jesus points us to unlimited willingness to forgive—seventy times seven. How amazing is God's love for us , and God's expectation of us!

\*HYMN #531 – Lord, Speak to Me

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## CHOIR RESPONSE

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are indebted to the Creator for all we have and for the precious gift of life itself. Nothing we can do will ever begin to repay this debt. Therefore, with gratitude, we extend to others the gracious acceptance and generosity we have experienced. Let us thank God with 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 honor you, O God, as we give. We are accountable to you and share  
in responsibility for one another and for the care of this planet. We  
dedicate our resources and our lives to you for the work of your realm.  
Receive our gifts and draw us to yourself. Amen.**

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

#### \*HYMN #391 – In the Midst of New Dimensions

### 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

Diane Breeden and Cyndi Gray

LAY READER

Diane Breeden

USHERS

Ken Gould, Shirley Dickason, Dee Deranian and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Maury Davidson

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