

First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
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Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**September 24, 2017      Proper 20**



**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)

**WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; GOT GRATITUDE?  
SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit.)

One: Call on God with praise and thanksgiving

**All: Today we open ourselves to God's presence**

One: When we eat and drink we are reminded of God's provision

**All: Daily we are strengthened for the tasks we face**

One: We benefit from God's generosity and grace

**All: Let all the people worship with joy!**

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

\*INVOCATION

**Gracious and loving God, we rejoice in your wonderful works, in miracles you have brought before us and in the many ways you bless us with your presence. Make each of us an instrument of your grace. Weave us into a community showing forth your power and tenderness. Enfold us in your presence and give us strength and courage to pass on the light you have sent to illuminate our journey through life. We are eager to be fed by your Word today. 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

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 #401 – O God, In Whom All Life Begins

### OLD TESTAMENT

#### Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. <sup>4</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup> And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. <sup>6</sup> The LORD God appointed a bush,<sup>[a]</sup> and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

#### Psalm 145: 1-8

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever. <sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. <sup>4</sup> One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. <sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. <sup>6</sup> The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. <sup>7</sup> They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. <sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

### NEW TESTAMENT

#### Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

### MEDITATION

CHOIR ANTHEM

“We Are Convinced”

Mark Hayes

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHOIR RESPONSE

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God provides generously for all of us. We are blessed with pure water and nourishing food. We have found joy in the faith that sustains our spirits. Let us now expand the circle of opportunity as we share what God has provided.

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

**Receive our tithes and offerings to your honor and Glory loving God. May fruitful results occur through and beyond our sharing. Call us into fruitful labor that Your Word, living through us may call our neighbors to joyous reunion with you. May we strive to help one another to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #593 – Lift Every Voice and Sing

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Let There Be Peace On Earth

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

Julie Turner

Stanley and Holly Gorgol, Tom and Andrea Cooper and Michael Bryan

Diane Breeden

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier