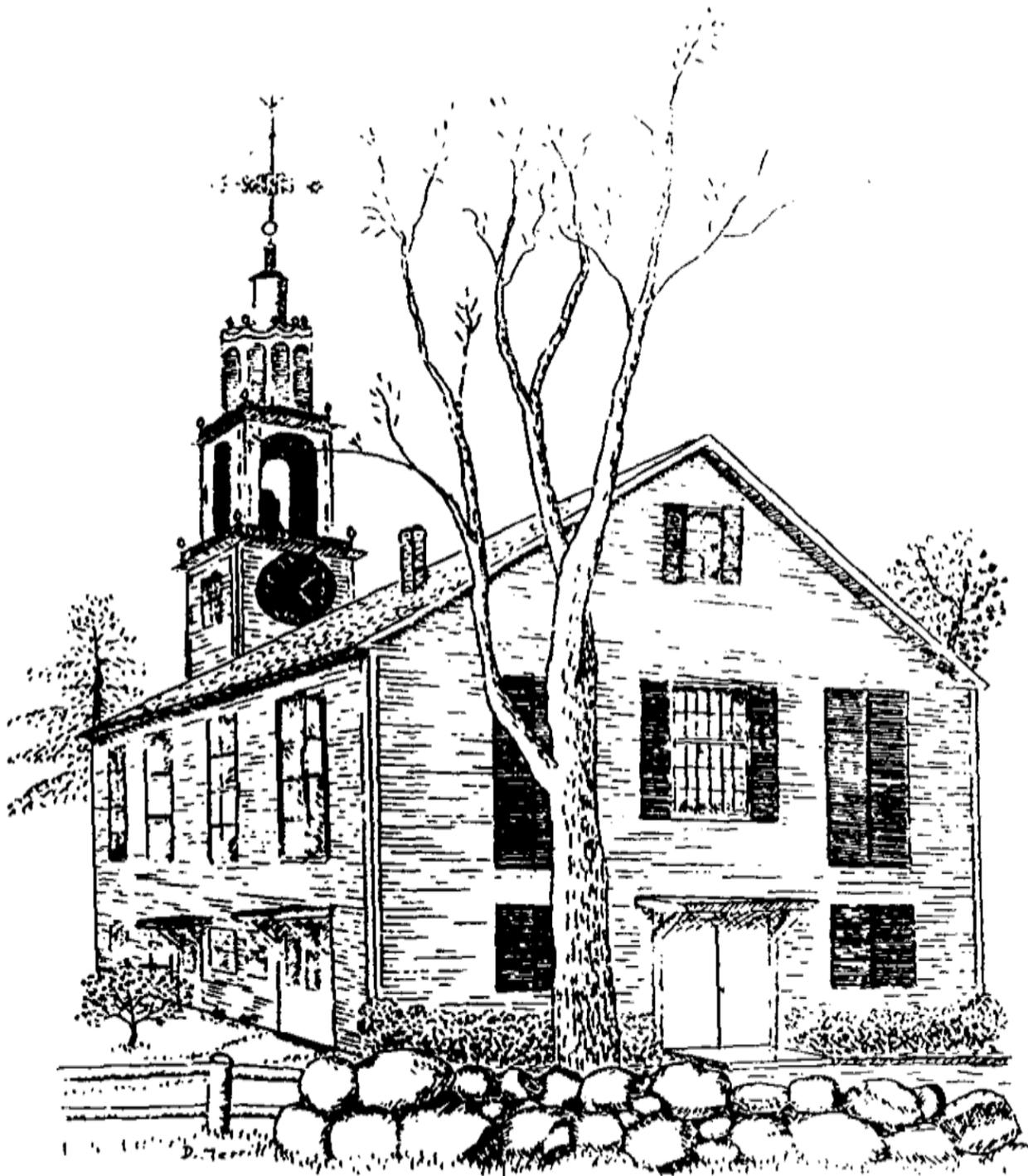


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

January 21, 2018 Third Sunday after Epiphany



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)

January 21, 2018 Third Sunday after Epiphany

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Charlotte Dugan

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: For God alone our souls wait in silence.

Our hope is from God, our fortress.

Many: God is our rock and our salvation.

God is our refuge and our deliverance.

One: Trust in God at all times, in all places.

Pour out your hearts to the One who hears.

Many: All people are valuable in God's sight.

Let us worship God, who is ready for us.

*HYMN: Lord of the Dance (insert)

*INVOCATION (unison)

We await your message, God of all places and times, trusting that your message is inclusive and fair. It is true that when we lose sight of you we make distinctions that favor us and our friends. You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways. Speak your truth to us in this service so we can carry it to the places where you want us to go, to the people you are eager to reach. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; As it is in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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 Hymn #138 Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good
Jesus, Our Brother, Strong and Good, was humbly born in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus our brother, strong and good.

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

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

*HYMN: #173 – Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 62:5-12

⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

¹² and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." ¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON What does it mean: the Kingdom of God has come near?

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM "There is An Everlasting Kindness" Getty, Getty & Townsend

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When our riches increase, we are tempted to put our trust and confidence in them. But riches are not meant to satisfy us. They are placed in our hands that we might accomplish God's good purpose. Giving through the church grants us that opportunity. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780 - Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of steadfast love, we pray that your work of transformation will be carried forward by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads. As individuals, we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to provide for your children in need. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #172 – Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Cyndi Gray

LAY READER

Cyndi Gray

USHERS

Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Nancy Berry and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Carol Guerrin

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