

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 28, 2018 Fourth 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 28, 2018 Fourth 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: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.

Many: We give thanks to God with whole hearts.

One: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

Many: At all times, God is mindful of the covenant.

One: Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.

Many: Holy and awesome is God's name.

*HYMN: #388 – Help Us Accept Each Other

*INVOCATION (unison)

God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. 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

Janet Wetherbee

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: #176 – Silence, Frenzied, Unclean

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 111

¹ Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SERMON: As One Having Authority

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Was I Faithful?"

Carolyn Hamlin

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

An important way to give thanks to God is through sharing the bounty we have been honored to receive. We can never do enough to earn God's generous blessings. We can only express our gratitude by passing on our gifts. It is a privilege to be able to give. 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)

By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #451 – Be Now My Vision

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

Ken Gould

LAYREADER

Jo Worthen

USHERS

Joan Crimlisk, Brian Williams, Margie Ives and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Joyce Pope

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