

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

February 18, 2018 First Sunday in Lent

A Dream Deferred *by Langston Hughes*

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore--
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over--
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

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)

February 18, 2018 First Sunday in Lent

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

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

One: Welcome to the time of covenant renewal.

Many: We come here to be reminded of God's promises to us;

One: Hear God's welcoming voice.

Many: Hear God calling our names.

One: Let us be in wonder at God's steadfast love.

Many: And let us proclaim the wonders of God.

*HYMN: #597 – Shall We Gather at the River

***INVOCATION**

Lead us in your love this day, gracious God. We long to know your ways and to be guided by your Spirit. We want to grow in the likeness of Jesus, to learn to live in ways that are pleasing to you.

We wait for you now, eager to respond to your guidance. Let nothing cut us off from you or separate us from one another, not only in this time of worship but as we face the challenges of another week. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #760

Amen siyakudumisa. (Amen, we praise your name)

Amen, Bawo; Amen Bawo; (Amen Father)

Amen siyakudumisa. (Amen, we praise your name)

RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PRESENTATION: Sue Handy

CHIME CHOIR

"Be Thou my Vision"

arr. Jason W. Krug

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

"I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing"

I'm going to sing when the Spirit says sing (repeat 3x)

And obey the Spirit of the Lord

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

Sue Handy

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: #328 – Wonder of Wonders

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 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.

SERMON

"Turn Around and Believe"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Circle of Praise"

Pepper Choplin

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God gives us responsibility to be co-creators in the covenant community which is intended for all humanity. Our giving is dedicated to that end. Let us receive the morning offering.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #785

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thank you, God, for the signs and wonders that reveal your presence. Thank you for the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Use our offerings and our lives to bring a realization of your reign among us. May we be humble, teachable, and faithful as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #391 – In the Midst of New Dimensions (Please be seated after the hymn.)

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Harry Handy and Ryan Lehoullier

LAYREADER:

Dee Deranian

USHERS

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

GREETER(s)

Liz Greenberg

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

