

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

**February 4, 2018      Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

*Small as a peanut,  
Big as a giant,  
We're all the same size  
When we turn off the light  
Rich as a sultan,  
Poor as a mite,  
We're all worth the same  
When we turn off the light.  
Red, black or orange,  
Yellow or white,  
We all look the same  
When we turn off the light.  
So maybe the way  
To make everything right  
Is for God to just reach out  
And turn off the light!*

**Shel Silverstein**

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 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

**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.**

### **WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Mikayla Henrick

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

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

One: Let us worship God, who is does not faint or grow weary.

**Many: It is so good to sing praises to our God!**

One: Let us sing to God with great thanksgiving.

**Many: Let us lift up our eyes to see God's wonders.**

\*HYMN: #22 – Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

### **\*INVOCATION**

**Amazing God, Our individual potential is not hidden from you, and the faithfulness of your church is important to you. We have gathered with great expectation, seeking to have our strength renewed and our hope restored. Make yourself known among us as we unite in your praise. 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)

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

We carry haughty pretensions that confuse our relationship with God. May we break away from any illusion of independence in order to realize our responsibility to God through the church. We need to claim our unity in Christ with all God's children, confess our brokenness and seek healing.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In unison)**

**Holy God, At times, we act as if we can get along without you. We bend your law to our own whims and then excuse our own disobedience. Forgive us, God. We are not worthy but you call us anyway. Restore us to yourself, we pray. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God calls each of us by name. Every community of faith is known to God, whose understanding is unlimited. The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent and to empower those who have grown weary. Praise God!

### **RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Presenter: Sue Handy

## **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**

Brian Williams

## ***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION***

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM:**

*"You Are Welcome Here"*

Marty Parks

### **OUR SACRED STORY with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION**

### **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.**

### **SHARING the MEAL**

This morning we will celebrate communion by coming forward to receive both bread (gluten free option will be served by the central server) and a cup of grape juice. You will come forward to receive a marcel of bread and partake of it. Move to the next server where you will receive a cup of grape juice. You may then leave the empty cup in the basket provided before returning to your seat. Your children are invited to participate and we trust that you will teach them the sacred meaning of this holy meal.

### **PRAYER of THANKSGIVING (in unison)**

**Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus:**

**For gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die,**

**For peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends,**

**For the glory of creation, for the mission of justice you have made our own. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

\*HYMN: #553 – There is a Balm in Gilead

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 40:21-31

GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39

SERMON "Renewing and Renewable Strength"

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Let Everything”

Andre Thomas

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have an obligation to proclaim the Gospel. We are entrusted with a commission. So we give freely of our time and abilities where we are, and we send and support the witness of others where we cannot go. Let us continue to give generously. The morning offering will now be received.

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 showing us a better way to live than what we are able to devise for ourselves. Thank you for Jesus Christ, for the ministry that extended your love to the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or brokenhearted, for the prayers that demonstrated how we, too, can be in communion with you. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: #474 – I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me (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

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAYREADER:

USHERS

GREETER(s)

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Harry Handy and Julie Turner

Beth Hunter

Diaconate and Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier