

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

**April 1, 2018      Easter Sunday**



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)

*April 1, 2018*

*Easter Sunday*

**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: Katelyn Raymond

## **WELCOME**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #233 - Christ the Lord is Risen Today

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

One: We gather for worship in awe and wonder..

**All: The tomb is empty; death is not the last word.**

One: Let us sing songs of praise, for God is good..

**All: God has answered our prayers with salvation.**

**Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.**

One: Let us open our hearts and minds to the risen Christ.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **\*INVOCATION**

**We greet the dawning brightness of this special day with hopes renewed. We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. 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.

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins. . . ." In the mystery of that atoning sacrifice, we come to this time of prayer, bringing our sins to the door of the empty tomb.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In unison)

**We cannot truly worship you, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. We admit before you now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience new life today. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God shows no partiality. The One who came to embody love among people is ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. In Jesus' name, our sins are forgiven, and we are being saved. The grace of God is extended to each of us on this day of resurrection. Praise God!

## **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

*"Jesus Loves Me"*

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

Sarah Keller

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Bread of the World"

Dennis Eliot

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 and eat your morsel of bread. Move to the next server where you will receive and drink your 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: #245 – The Day of Resurrection

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 118: 1-2; 14-24

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

SERMON: Hope Changes Everything

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Resurrection Victory”

Lloyd Larson

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When we have seen the Christ, that makes all the difference in our view of life. When we have encountered life, we can no longer pursue the ways of death. When we realize how much we have received from a loving God, our gratitude pours forth in eagerness to share good news with the world.

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

**We consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries. As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace, into our jobs and schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: #243 – Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

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

Joanne Worthen and Cindy Pingree

Cyndi Gray

Diaconate and Michael Bryan

Verna Elwell and Shirley Dickason

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier