

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

**March 18, 2018    Fifth Sunday in Lent**



**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)

*March 18, 2018 Fifth Sunday in Lent*

**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: The days are surely coming, says our God;  
The day is here to affirm a new covenant.

**Many: We call on God's steadfast love and mercy.  
Let us seek a strong and vital relationship with our God.**

One: God's law will be written on our hearts.  
Our Creator claims us and forgives our faithlessness.

**Many: We are eager to know the God who loves us.  
We are ready to learn God's intention for us.**

One: God offers us the joy of salvation.  
Our brokenness can be healed and wholeness restored.

**Many: We are open to the new and right spirit God offers.  
We seek guidance for our daily living.**

\*HYMN: #493 – O Jesus, I Have Promised

### **\*INVOCATION**

**As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you, O God; we cry out to you today. You know our losses and our fears. You understand our suffering and pain. We want to hear a reassuring voice. We long to see a new day when evil is overcome and wrong cannot prevail. Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us. 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)

### **MOMENT FOR MISSION**

Pastoral Counseling Services, a covenant partner      The Rev. Dr. David Reynolds

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

"Everything We Need"

Schmidt & Schmidt  
verse 3 by Charlotte Dugan

### **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

Katie Cobban

## 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: #222 – My Song is Love Unknown

### OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 51:1-13

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right<sup>[b]</sup> spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing<sup>[c]</sup> spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

### GOSPEL: John 12: 20-26

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

SERMON: From Fecklessness to Fecundity

The Rev. Dr. David Reynolds

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

“My God’s So Good to Me”

Mark Hayes

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What are we ready to die for? How much of ourselves and our resources will we risk for the sake of the Gospel? Jesus invites us to follow as disciples and servants, risking everything for the sake of God's love. The morning offering will 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

**We dedicate these offerings to the proclamation of your Word, the teaching of your ways, and the living of your will for all humankind. May these gifts enable the sharing of your presence with many as we keep covenant with you. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: #198 – Lift High the Cross

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

WORSHIP LEADER TODAY

Julie Turner

PREACHER TODAY

The Rev. Dr. David Reynolds

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Diane Breeden, Ryan Lehoullier & Julie Turner

LAYREADER:

Pat Plouff

USHERS

Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Margie Ives and Michael Bryan

GREETER(s)

Liz Greenburg

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