

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 25, 2018 Palm Sunday



BLESSED IS THE ONE
who comes
in the name of the Lord!

PEACE *in heaven, and* GLORY
in the highest heaven!

+ LUKE 19:38

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 25, 2018 Palm 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: Mia Carvalho

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: #213 – Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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

One: Blessed are those who delight in worship.

Many: Give thanks to God, all who assemble here.

One: Let all who follow Christ sing God's praise.

Many: Open the gates of righteousness that we might enter.

One: This is the day that our God has made;

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***INVOCATION**

This is your day, holy God. Every day belongs to you. This precious gift of life is ours, in trust, from you. We give thanks, for your steadfast love endures forever. That love, expressed in the life of Jesus, dared to challenge those centers of power that lived by other standards. We come to declare that love today. Reign among us, we pray. 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)

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

Anne Marie Merrill

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: #215 – Ride on! Ride On in Majesty

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a]

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.^[b] We bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.^[c]

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

SERMON: Embracing the Palms - Understanding the Cross

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Hosanna in the Streets"

Pepper Choplin

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What shall we give in the name of One who gave everything for us? What do we offer in thanksgiving for the steadfast love proclaimed in Jesus Christ? How will good news be carried to the centers of power in our world today? What we give will make a difference. 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

What you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God. Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Receive, O God, our humble service. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #216 – All Glory, Laud and Honor

A FINAL WORD

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

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER(s)

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Diane Breeden, Ryan Lehoullier & Julie Turner

Joanne Worthen

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

Betsy McCall

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Hannah Collier