

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

May 13, 2018 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)

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD THIS 13th DAY of MAY

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Charlotte Dugan

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: #14 – How Can I Say Thanks

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

One: We come together today to worship and praise our Holy Creator.

Many: We are not here just for ourselves, for our own needs.

One: We are drawn together by a larger purpose.

Many: We have been called by Christ for a mission.

One: The community gathers to be better equipped for ministry.

Many: We have been chosen as apostles of good news.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Watch over us, holy God, as we take time to pray and to consider the continuing impact of Easter on our lives. Jesus Christ has become for us the measure of life. We are a resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to the light. Nourish us here so that we may become like trees, planted beside streams of water, flourishing and bearing much fruit in your name. 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.

CHIME CHOIR “Come Thou Almighty King”

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

Kathryn 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

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper. ⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

GOSPEL: John 17: 6-19 ("The Ascension")

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I

am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in

the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given

me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them

because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into

the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

SERMON: The message this morning will be a "conversation" between a beloved Hymn and three mothers who will offer reflections this Mother's Day.

351: "I was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" verse 1 (Please remain seated.)

Reflection by Christine Lehoullier

351: "I was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" verse 2 (Please remain seated.)

Reflection by Anne-Marie Merrill

351: "I was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" verse 3 (Please remain seated.)

Reflection by Cathy Zylinski

351: "I was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" verse 4 (Please remain seated.)

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM "I Have Felt the Hand of God"

Martin/Courtney

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

All that we possess is a part of God's gift to the world. God's gift in Jesus Christ reminds us that what is entrusted to us is meant to be shared. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780 - Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Here and now, O God, we return to You just some of the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are on this earth. May our hearts follow our treasure into growing devotion to your truth and expanded commitment to the unity in love that Jesus sought for all your children. Bless this offering, and increase our joy in giving. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #433 – In the Bulb There is a Flower

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

Diane Dunn and Ryan Lehoullier

LAY READER:

Brian Williams

USHERS

Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Suzanne Hunt

GREETER(s)

Betsy McCall

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Susan Handy

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Christine Lehoullier

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

Chris Ferrin

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Guerrin