

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

July 1, 2018 Proper 8



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)

July 1, 2018

The altar table flowers are from Ken Williams this morning, in loving memory of his wife Arlene and in honor of Marilyn Ham on their birthday.

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Emily Raymond

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

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

One: Arise, people of faith, that Christ may give us life.

Many: Let us embrace one another with concern and care.

One: God challenges us to enthusiastic engagement in life.

Many: Let us wait in joyous anticipation of God's Will.

*HYMN: # 24 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past

***INVOCATION (unison)**

We gather to thank you, gracious God, for those times when Your Presence has calmed the storms of our hearts. You have clothed us with joy and filled us with hope. We are grateful that even in our days of deepest despair you have surrounded us with a love stronger than all our pain and doubts. Come to us now that we may sense your Presence in the midst of the narrow focus of our daily concerns. We await your Word. Amen (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Surrounded by the steadfast love of God, we seek the courage to examine our lives and our relationships. Together we confess the sin that cuts us off from our Creator and separates us from one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of peace, we confess that we have relied too often on the weapons of war. We are more ready to honor warriors than to give support to those who work diligently for justice and equality. We can be more interested in securing your support for our desires than in conforming ourselves to your will. You have given us much, and we have misspent this abundance, creating idols and pursuing illusions of pleasure. O God, forgive us and re-center us in ways that really matter. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

If God marked iniquities, who could stand? Yet there is forgiveness for all from the Source of Life. There is power to redeem us from the most grievous sin. God offers steadfast love to re-center our lives. When we revere God, all else in life is seen in a new light. Our brokenness is healed. Our priorities are changed. Praise God!

***SONG OF PRAISE #759**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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 Going to Sing When the Spirit Says Sing!

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

Christine Lehoullier

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #337 – Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

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, starting in the back of the sanctuary. You will receive bread (**gluten free** option will be served by the middle server) and a cup of grape juice (cups of water are in the center of the tray). You will come forward to receive your morsel of bread. Eat it **as soon as** you receive it. Move to the next server where you will receive your cup of grape juice. Drink it **as soon as** you receive it. 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. (Children are excused.)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

*HYMN: # 594 How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 130 NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 5:21-43

SERMON: Blessed Interruptions

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God's generous act in Jesus Christ invites our generosity. Jesus leads us to true riches. We are called to give according to our means, toward the goal of a fair balance among all of God's children. May our offerings begin to answer that Call.

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

We pray that you will find our gifts acceptable, O God. If we have not given according to what we have, we seek the courage to do so. May these gifts relieve suffering and reveal hope. May they give meaning to all who give and all who receive. We dedicate them - that those who have much may not have too much, and those who have little may not have too little. Amen

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

*HYMN: #207 – Just As I Am. Without One Plea

BENEDICTION

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

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Diane Breeden, Harry Handy

Pat Plouff

Diaconate

Joyce Pope

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Susan Handy

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin

Psalm 130

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Mark 5:21-43

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[a] to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶ But overhearing^[b] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.