

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 15, 2018 Proper 10



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 15, 2018

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Katelyn Raymond

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

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

One: May the glory of God be known in this place!

Many: May God's peace dwell in this and every land!

One: God speaks peace to those who are faithful.

Many: Let us turn to God and receive a word of truth.

*HYMN: #27 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

***INVOCATION (unison)**

Creator of all worlds, your glory surrounds our unseeing eyes, our muffled hearing and our dulled emotions. Awaken us to the mystery of your will. Speak to us a word of truth that leads us away from falsehood. Touch us with healing grace. Help us to admit our woundedness and accept the comfort you offer. Let your Spirit move among us so we may recognize your presence in one another and in our own lives. May our response to you be faithful and our praise genuine. Amen.

***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 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: #487 Surely No One Can Be Safer

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

² for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶ Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

⁸ Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰ Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. *Selah*

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

SERMON: What Should I Ask for?

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The earth belongs to God, and all that is in it. The world is God's creation, and so are we. All that we have is from the gifts of God, meant as a blessing for all to share. In these moments, we recognize our responsibility to manage these resources for the redemption of all God's people. The morning offering will now be taken.

*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**

With joyous praise and dancing spirits, we dedicate this offering, acknowledging our covenant responsibility to share your Word and love with all your children. In gratitude for the gospel of love, we pledge our first loyalty and highest faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received. Help us now to live according to the best we know, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #473 Blessed Assurance

BENEDICTION

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	Julie Turner
LAY READER:	Cyndi Gray
USHERS	Holly and Stan Gorgol, Andrea and Tom Cooper
GREETER	Beth Hunter
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