

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

June 10, 2018 4th Sunday of Pentecost



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)

June 10, 2018

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Heather Richardson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

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

One: It is good to give thanks to God!

Many: God knows our troubles and remembers our need.

One: Declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Many: Let us seek God's help in the sanctuary.

One: Listen for the voice of God, speaking to us again.

Many: And we will bear fruit for God as long as life endures.

*HYMN #386 The Church's One Foundation

***INVOCATION (unison)**

We turn to you, God of all worlds, knowing we can depend on you when earthly rulers stumble and fall, when other relationships are strained and broken, when we are faced with difficult challenges. It is good to sing your praises. It is good to declare your faithfulness. It is good to give thanks, for when we do, we are reminded of the multitude of blessings we so often take for granted. Lead us in this time of worship. 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.

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Reflection: Anne-Marie Merrill

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

*HYMN: # 43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 17:22-24 and Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 4: 26-34

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

CHOIR ANTHEM "Help Me, Lift-a My Load" by Pepper Choplin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God remembers our offerings of genuine thankfulness and regards with favor the sacrifices we make to extend God's realm. We give, not out of compulsion, but with joy. Let us give thanks as we present our tithes and offerings.

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

All that we have is yours, O God. May our common ministry be extended by the time and talents and treasure we invest. We would no longer live just for ourselves but for the realization of your Presence among us. Let all things become new as we give our best. Amen.

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

*HYMN: (see insert) Here I Am, Lord

BLESSING

BLESSING 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

Julie Turner, Sue Lindemann

LAY READER:

Cindy Pingree

USHERS

Tom Cooper, Andrea Cooper, Nancy Berry

GREETER

Joyce Pope

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

WORSHIP LEADER TODAY

Diana Sweeney

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²² Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig

from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one

from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it

on a high and lofty mountain.

²³ On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,

and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;

in the shade of its branches will nest

winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴ All the trees of the field shall know

that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,

I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree

and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Psalm 92 1-4, 12-15

¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
² to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
³ to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
⁴ For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Psalm 92

¹² The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
¹³ They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,
¹⁵ showing that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Mark 4: 26-34

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

The Use of Parables

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.