

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
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Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

August 5, 2018 Proper 13



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

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: # 18 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

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

One: Draw near to God, who understands your need.

Many: We are offered the Bread of Life in this place.

One: Let us open ourselves to God's steadfast love.

Many: Whoever trusts in Christ will never go empty.

*INVOCATION (unison)

We hear you calling us, loving God, to a life of humility, gentleness and patience. May your Spirit unite us in the bond of peace. Draw us to a common faith, in spite of our differences and in spite of our pain. Lead us, O Lord, into new depths of trust beyond our knowing and surprise us with the benefits of living in your love. Amen (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are tossed about in a sea of competing images and priorities. God summons us to a life of faith. Let us confess our self-centeredness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our transgressions are many. We have sinned against our neighbors and therefore we have sinned against you. You alone know the extent of our guilt. Wash us thoroughly and cleanse us deep within. Put a new light and right spirit in us and restore us to the joy of life in You. Help us to lead lives worthy of your Call to us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

By God's grace, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are drawn together and entrusted with gifts for the good of all. We are knit into one body for mutual support, encouragement and growth.

*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

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

Liz Greenberg

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #335 – Come, Gather in This Special Place

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). Come forward to receive your morsel of bread and **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

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 51: 1-12

NEW TESTAMENT: John 6:24-35

SERMON: "Food that Endures"

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN: # 539 Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

From the abundance of our land, we have much to share. Often, we benefit from economic policies that favor us over the poor of the world. Our offerings seek to bring justice amid the world's inequities.

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**

These offerings can accomplish much good and support the missions of the church. And giving of our treasure helps us to gain perspective on all that we have and on what really matters. We then dedicate our offerings, O Lord, and ask that you cause them to multiply in ways that we could never achieve. Amen

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

*HYMN: #295 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

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

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Joanne Worthen and Carol Bates

Ryan Lehoullier

Diaconate

Verna Elwell

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin