

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
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July 29, 2018 Proper 12



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 29, 2018

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Acolyte: Mikayla Henrick

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: #407 How Firm a Foundation

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

One: This is a time to offer our best to our Creator.

Many: Let us open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.

One: Let us come together proclaiming, "God is with us!"

Many: And seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.

One: God's presence evokes our joyous worship.

Many: To God be the highest glory we can offer.

*INVOCATION (unison)

We are shipwrecked, O Lord, and we are seeking after you, our refuge.

Your power is at work within and among us, even when we are not aware.

We want to respond, not as fools, but as faithful friends of Jesus. We have come to discover the riches we did not know we possessed. We are here to offer our best for the good of all. Use us, we pray, to accomplish in and through this church, far more than we can ask or imagine. All glory be to you, amazing God, in this and every hour, forever and ever. 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

Ken Williams

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

GOSPEL: John 6:1-15

- ¹ After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.
- ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"
- ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.
- ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

SERMON: "So that nothing may be lost"

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN: #327 Jesus Loves Me

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have gladly received a generous portion of the world's good. Let us give back in proportion to the blessings we have received. May the church be at the forefront of feeding, healing, caring for, and loving God's people. We are the church, the body of Christ, making a difference in the world. The morning offering will now be received.

*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**

Holy Provider, We join with Jesus in giving thanks for the things that we can see, that our eyes may be opened to the great possibilities we had not imagined. May our efforts be multiplied by Your grace so there is more than enough for all – more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain, more mercy to meet our treachery, more sense of presence amid our loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness, more joy and enthusiasm to erase our apathy. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #419 Now Thank We All Our 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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Harry Handy and Diane Breeden

Diane Dunn

Brian Williams, Pat Cefaly, Margie Ives, Michael Bryan

Liz Greenberg

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin