

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

August 26, 2018 Proper 16



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: #519 – Standing in the Need of Prayer

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

One: With profound happiness, we welcome one another.

Many: Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.

One: Here we welcome both friend and stranger.

Many: Together we extol the name of our God.

One: Open your lives to renewed understandings.

Many: Surely God will equip us to face our world.

*INVOCATION (unison)

We come together in this house of prayer, trusting you, O God, to give us everything we need. As you provide for the birds of the air, supply life's necessities for your children to share. We choose to respond to your promises by identifying ourselves as your servant people who seek to be guided by your word. We gather to remember and reclaim your covenant with us. Amen (You may be seated.)

***SONG OF PRAISE #756: Gloria by Jaques Berthier**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

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

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. (Children are excused.)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 34:15-22

- ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
- ¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
- ¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
- ¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.
- ²⁰ He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.
- ²¹ Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- ²² The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned

NEW TESTAMENT: John 6:56-69

⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵ And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

SERMON: Where would we go?

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: # 531 – O God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak
(You may remain seated.)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The church is not a private club that we maintain for our own benefit. It is a mission outpost, constantly enlisting us and our resources for the spreading of good news and the increase of God's reign of love. Our offerings are one measure of how seriously we take our call as ambassadors for Christ.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY #760**

(Masithi) Amen, siyakudumisa. (Masithi)

Amen, siyakudumisa. (Masithi)

Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo, Amen, siyakudumisa.

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen.)

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen.)

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen,

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen.)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May our giving add strength to the witness of your church, O God, as we humbly seek your truth and lovingly share it. Ready us to proclaim the gospel of peace in our homes, in our places of work and leisure, throughout our community and the world. Keep before your people the awesome mystery of faith. May its power overcome the cynicism of our skeptical, self-serving age, uniting us in disciplines that are freeing and discipleship that is amazingly fulfilling. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #319 – Wonderful Words of Life

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

Joanne Worthen and Carol Bates

LAY READER:

Brian Williams

USHERS

Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Suzanne Hunt, Michael Bryan

GREETER

Diane Dunn

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Debbie Gline Allen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Christine Lehoullier

ACCOMPANIST/ORGANIST

Chris Ferrin

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Guerrin