

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
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October 14, 2018 Proper 23



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: #73- Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

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

One: Come, all who look for God with unseeing eyes.
Come, all who listen for God but hear nothing.

**Many: Oh, that we knew where to find God!
We want to hear and understand God's Word.**

One: The Word of God is living and active.
It pierces and judges and opens us up to God's grace.

**Many: We cannot hide from God who knows us.
God understands our thoughts and intentions.**

*INVOCATION (unison)

We seek to gather as children of your realm, reigning God. We recognize your Presence, your Glory and your Grace. Help us in this hour to embrace the diversity of our community. Open our thoughts and feelings. We approach you with boldness, daring to question and make requests, knowing that your grace and mercy exceed our wildest imagining, and your guidance is ever available to those who seek sincerely. Amen.

***SONG OF PRAISE #236: Halleluja**

ANTHEM: I Was There To Hear Your Boring Cry (TNCH #351)

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 and 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

Elizabeth Greenberg

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 as we sing: **“Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.”**

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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome Ryleigh Marie LeBlanc into our midst.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 40:1-5

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 10:23-31

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another. “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”

²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

SERMON: “Happy are those who make the Lord their trust”

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: 454 – Lord, I Want To Be A Christian

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The Gospel message is clear: as long as our reliance is on things we have accumulated, our Christian discipleship is threatened. We give out of thanks to God and concern for our neighbors. The morning offering will be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thank you, God, for the wealth you have entrusted to us. As we share a portion of that wealth, we pray that it may never become the object of our affection. Keep our focus on people and relationships. We dedicate our time, money, and ourselves to the reign of God among us, praying that all whom our gifts may reach may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. 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)

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

**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

Julie Turner, Cindy Pingree

Joanne Worthen

Dusty Patrick, Verna Elwell, Joan Crimlisk, Michael Bryan

Carol Guerrin

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin