

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

October 21, 2018      Proper 24



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: #12 – I Sing the Mighty Power of God

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let your minds ponder the manifold works of God.

**Many: Sun and rain proclaim God's infinite imagination.**

One: Moon and stars sing the glory of the Eternal One.

**Many: We depend on God for the gift of life.**

One: We gather to worship and praise the God of all Creation.

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**Source of all things, we cannot comprehend the innumerable marvels of the earth. How shall we honor your wonder? You are so unknowable, yet evidence of your work surrounds us. The mystery of life in all its many forms and the amazing resources of this planet speak of a God who cares, who honors us, who provides meaning in our lives. Let this time of gathering as a faith community honor you and equip us to do your will. Amen.**

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

### **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

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.**

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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## MOMENT FOR MISSION

Presentation by Joe Weaver

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 139: 1-14

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night,"

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 10:35-45

<sup>35</sup> James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup> So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup> But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

SERMON: The Heart of Discipleship: Following Christ is to Serve

SPECIAL MUSIC by Peggo Horstmann Hodes

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: #606 - Nearer, My God to You

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION: For Jesus, a life lived for others was the only life consistent with God's reign. The church exists to increase among us the love of God and of neighbor, and to build within us the deep conviction that we are beloved, valued, people of worth. It is to this mission that we devote our offerings for ministry in this community and throughout God's world. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC by the Songweavers, Concord Community Music School

\*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**

**We give with joy, loving God, in gratitude for all you have allowed us to experience. By your love, we have survived and learned and grown. We dedicate these gifts as we ask you to equip us to be an inviting, caring community in which all your children find a genuine welcome and are lifted up to new understanding and joy. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Songweavers

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

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|------------------------------------|---|
| MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH            | Members of the Congregation                           |
| DEACONS OF THE MONTH               | Julie Turner, Cindy Pingree                           |
| LAY READER:                        | Cindy Pingree   |
| USHERS                             | Brian Williams, Margie Ives, Pat Cefaly 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                                      |