

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 7, 2018 Proper 25

WORLD COMMUNION



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: # 403 – My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

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

One: God is gathering us from many different places.

Many: God lifts us up when we stumble and leads us in light.

One: We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.

Many: God cares for us amid our pain and losses.

Let us exalt God's name together!

*INVOCATION (unison)

All-powerful God, we invoke your presence among us. When our strength is spent, our vision clouded, and our hope gone, you reach out to us in ways we often fail to discern. We want to be a part of your faithful remnant in a world that too often loses sight of the Holy. Help us, we pray. Amen. (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We who are called to be a servant people have often forgotten what it means to sacrifice ourselves for others. Let us take this time to confess selfish motives and hurtful actions.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that our busy lives have made of you a distant deity. We can be dominated by our doubts instead of by our practice of prayer. We ask for mercy as we face up to the shortcomings that we have recognized and the wrongdoing we have tried to ignore. Instill in us a new appreciation of righteousness, and help us to grow in the way you would have us go. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our God reaches out to us in love over and over again. God is most generous in blessing us and lifting us beyond our losses and our fears. In Christ, we are linked with God's saving grace for all time and eternity. Let us praise God, recognizing that faith has the power to heal.

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

ANTHEM I will Lift Mine Eyes Unto the Hills (Psalm 121) by Austin C. Lovelace

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

Anne Marie Merrill

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #343 – Jesus Took the Bread

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 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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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 8 NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 10:13-16

SERMON: "WWJD - What Would Jesus Do"

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN: #329 – Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our offerings are to magnify God's name and to express our deep sense of thanksgiving. They are also an expression of empathy and concern for sisters and brothers who struggle to find life. Giving reorients our lives to what is of lasting value and importance. Let us give joyfully as we are able!

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**

Hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we offer ourselves. Keep us strong, that this church may give radiant witness to truth, constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption to those caught up in the wickedness of our times. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #347 – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

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

Julie Turner, Cindy Pingree

Ryan Lehoullier

Diaconate

Verna Elwell

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin

Pastor: We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith. We welcome Sharon Getz, Dusty and Dottie Patrick, Alan Pawl, Mike Rounds, Jeff Slowick, Tom (Woody) Wood.

Pastor: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the Sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ here at First Parish. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Deacon: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ, in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Pastor: I ask you now these questions:

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

I do

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

I do

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

I promise, with the help of God

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

I Promise, with the help of God.

Deacon:

Let us, the members of First Parish, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ by reading together the Greeting found on the inside cover of our hymnal.

PEOPLE:

We, then, the members of this church, extend to you a Christian welcome, and do heartily receive you into the fellowship of this church.

We desire to share with you its responsibilities and privileges, its sacrifices and rewards.

We pledge to you Christian sympathy and concern.

We promise to walk with you in the ways of loving service, to be jealous of your good name, and to hold your peace and welfare as our own.

God grant that loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared, while we dwell together on earth, for the perfect fellowship that is above.

Pastor: (let us pray)

O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building on another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. AMEN