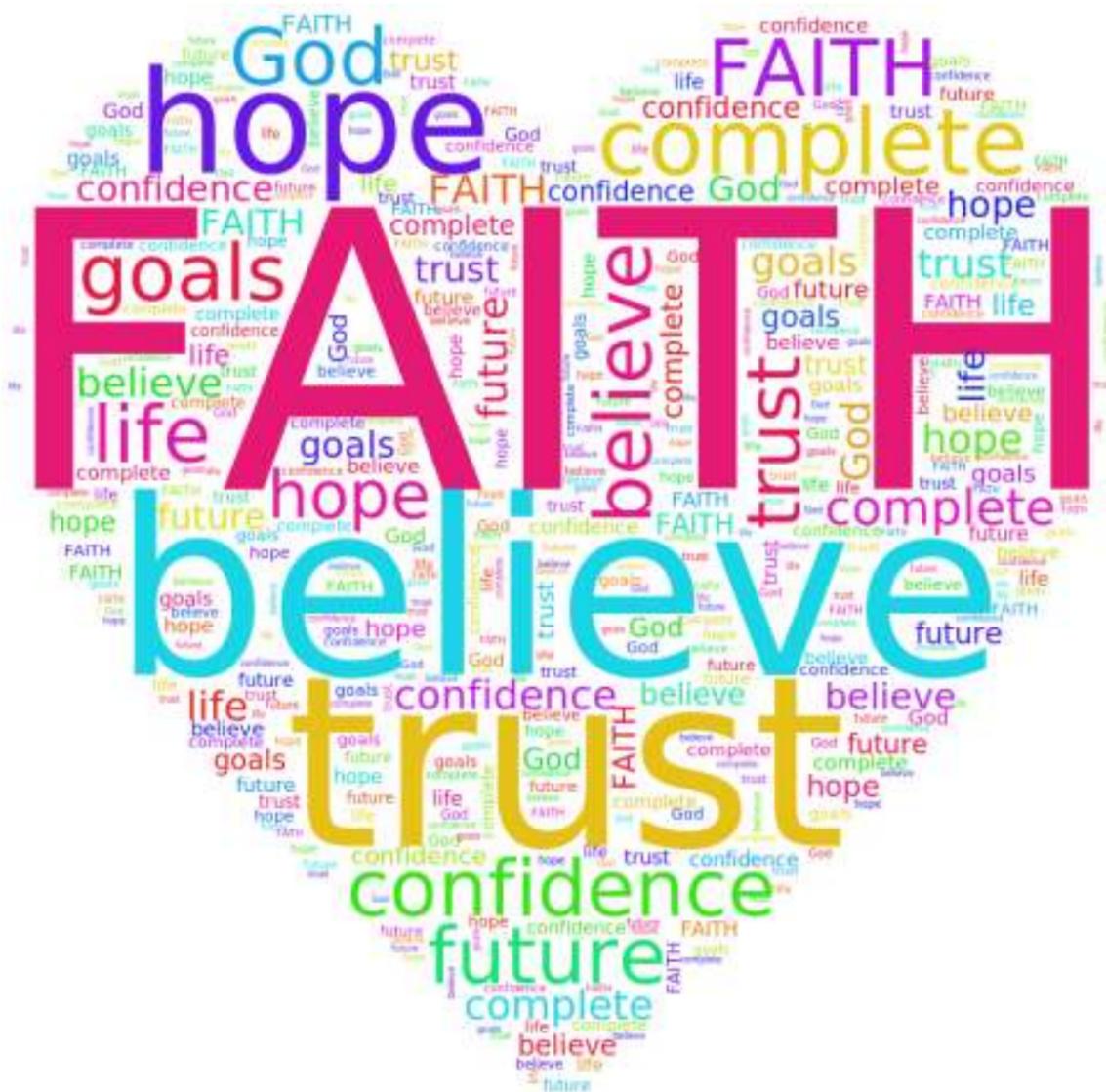


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

September 16, 2018 Proper 19



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

* **HYMN: Lord of the Dance** (insert)

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come away from dullness and complacency.

Many: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

One: Our waywardness separates us from God.

Many: Let us gather to renew our relationship with God.

All: Let us seek enlightenment and the renewal of our souls.

***INVOCATION (unison)**

God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the Source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. Give us eyes to see beauty all around us. Align us with truth and righteousness. Quiet our scoffing and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day. Amen.

***SONG OF PRAISE #756: Gloria** by Jacques Berthier (*First verse only*)

Choir Anthem: "Be Not Afraid"

Words and music by Bob Dufford, SJ
Dani Allen, guitar

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 them to their classes.)

Congregational Singing: 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 19

- ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
² Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
³ There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.
⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
¹² But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 7: 24-37

- ²⁴ From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.
³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

SERMON: The Crumbs of Compassion

WE SERVE GOD WITH MISSION

Moment for Mission by Karen Wilson

RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What messages do our offerings send to the world? Do they communicate our delight in knowing God and following the Christ? The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #760 "Siyakudumisa"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you, O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from you and to serve you is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message. Amen

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

HYMN: #451 Be Now MY Vision

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

*HYMN: #300 – Jesus shall reign

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

Diane Dunn

Fred Merrill

Rachel Cobban, Dee Deranian, Joan Crimlisk, Michael Bryan

Diane Dunn

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,

is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of
worship, prayer and education.

In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others.

In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit,
we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.