

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
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September 23, 2018 Proper 20



Art by: Katelyn Raymond

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

Mikayla Henrick

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

***HYMN: #498 – Jesu, Jesu (Please stand in body or Spirit.)**

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

Many We gather to become more aware of that presence.

One: Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous.

Many: God is always as near as our next breath.

One: Put your trust in God as you learn to be peaceable, gentle, and merciful.

Many: Let us seek to do good and open our hands to the poor in spirit.

***INVOCATION (unison)**

You watch over us, O God, in ways we cannot imagine. Thank you for meeting us here and helping us to deal with our selfish ambition, disorder, and conflicts. We submit ourselves to you for instruction. Help us to be honest with ourselves and with you, voicing our doubts as well as our faith, our hypocrisy along with all that is deeply genuine. Create in us a space for quiet listening and thoughtful worship. Amen.

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

Anthem: Morning Has Broken

Arranged by Lloyd Larsen, words by Eleanor Farjeon

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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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 9: 30-37

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

SERMON: Are We Too Afraid to Ask?

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: #456 – More Love to You, O Christ

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

WHEN IS A BRICK ALSO A LOVE OFFERING? Nancy Murdock

OFFERTORY INVITATION

With free-will offerings, we will sacrifice to God, giving thanks for mercies too abundant to count. We want to share all that has been entrusted to our keeping, that God may be praised, and peace may come to all God's people. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #760 Siyakudumisa

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Thank you, God, for this opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our congregation. May there be a harvest of righteousness among us, shown in the peaceful handling of disputes, in mutual love and support, and in courageous outreach to people near and far who need the help we can give. Bless each gift and each giver. Amen

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

***HYMN: #473 – Blessed Assurance**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

Philippians 4:8

Finally, beloved,

**whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.**

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Diane Dunn

LAY READER:

Beth Hunter

USHERS

Stan & Holly Gorgol, Tom & Andrea Cooper

GREETER

Maury Davidson

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

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.