

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 30, 2018 Proper 21



First Parish Church
Established 1719

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: #55 – Rejoice You Pure in Heart**

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

One: Come one and all to meet God here.

Many: We have come that God might raise us up.

One: Come, all who are weary and oppressed.

Many: God hears our prayers and answers us.

One: Come together to sing songs of praise to God.

Many: Let us give thanks for God's wondrous Presence.

***INVOCATION (unison)**

God of majesty and powerful compassion, turn our sorrow into gladness and our mourning into a holiday, a holy day, in which to praise you. Show us how to find ways to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Lift us from our daily preoccupations that we may pray with earnest intent, both to thank you and to be changed by you. Let our prayers be powerful and effective. May our worship be alive and life-changing. Amen.

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

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

Ken Williams

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 124

¹If it had not been the Lord who was on our side — let Israel now say—

²if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,

³then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵then over us would have gone the raging waters.

⁶Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us.

⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

REFLECTION by Beth Hunter

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN: #506 – What a Friend We Have In Jesus

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Like salt that enhances the flavor of food, Christians are called to share the joy and gladness we are discovering in our relationship with Jesus Christ. The good news is extended through our support of the church and its ministries. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #760 Siyakudumisa

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We dedicate ourselves and our offerings to the work of your church. For those who are sick, who are suffering, who are grieving, who are lost, we have words of hope and acts of caring. We stand with all who face discrimination, oppression, and confusion, seeking to work with them for justice and a meaningful existence. As you have accepted us, we reach out to include all your children in the family of mutuality, self-revelation, and growing in love. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #181 – You are the Salt of the Earth, O People

BLESSING

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

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. (Philippians 4:8)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH	Members of the Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER	The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR	Christine Lehoullier
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY	Debbie Gline Allen
DEACONS OF THE MONTH	Diane Dunn, Ryan Lehoullier
LAY READER:	Joanne Worthen
USHERS	Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell, Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan
GREETER	Diane Dunn
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.