

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 9, 2018 Proper 18



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; HAPPY BIRTHDAY; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: # 73 – Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

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

One: God is welcoming us to this time of worship.

Many: This is a place where all belong.

One: The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

Many: We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.

One: Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.

Many: Let us bring all our needs to God, our true hope.

***INVOCATION (unison) Author of all humankind, come lift us up to our full humanity as we worship you this hour. Surround us on every side. You already know our shallow motives. You are already aware of the distinctions we make and the favoritism we express. Yet you welcome us, not as strangers but as long lost children coming home to You. Come among us now with Your transforming power. Amen. (You may be seated.)**

CALL TO CONFESSION The Holy One - who opens eyes and ears, makes the mute to speak, and delivers the tormented from demons within - invites us to seek the healing we need. Let us confess our estrangement from the One who offers us true freedom.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **O God, we confess that our good intentions have gone astray. We favor the people who are like us. We write off those with whom we disagree. It is so much easier to give advice than to do good. We would much rather point fingers. O God, we ask your forgiveness. Give us a depth of faith that will make a difference in us and in the world around us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS When we show mercy, we are able to accept God's mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. God can turn our waywardness upside down. God can set us on the path of true community with those whom we have disdained or ignored. God opens our minds and hearts to hear and understand those who need our help. Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF PRAISE #759 — Gloria by Jaques Berthier**
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

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

Jesus loves me!

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

Kathryn Cobban

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: # 330 – Let Us Break Bread Together (remain seated)

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.)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

NEW TESTAMENT: James 2:1-10, 14-17

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

#571 – O God of Love (remain seated)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Hear again the proverb: "Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor." What a joy we can know when our thankfulness exceeds our acquisitiveness, and our concern for others outweighs our greed! We are invited to share what we have received. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY #760** (Masithi) Amen, siyakudumisa. (Masithi) (2x)

Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo, Amen, siyakudumisa.

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen.) (2x)

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen.)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give because of all that you have given us, gracious God. We give because we need to give in order to realize your image within us. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our members, our community, and our world. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

At First Parish we organize ourselves by Boards and committees. Membership to these boards and committees is always welcome. AND perhaps there are ways that you can serve by doing a ministry task that is your gift from God.

Please use the insert to take notes if you'd like and please see one of these folks if your gift matches a ministry task.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING – Go Now In Peace

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Joanne Worthen and Carol Bates

LAY READER:

Dee Deranian

USHERS

Joe Weaver, Pat Cefaly, Margie Ives, Michael Bryan

GREETER

Joyce Pope

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