

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

**November 18, 2018    Proper 28**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**



Based on the 11 circuit Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness.

It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. Walking the Labyrinth is a journey of self-exploration, representing a journey inwards to our own center and back again out into the world.

## WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

\*HYMN: #422 – Come, O Thankful People, Come

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us bring all our troubles to God in prayer.

**Many: Surely God hears our prayers.**

One: God grants our petitions and gives us peace.

**Many: In God's presence there is fullness of joy.**

**All: As we meet together, let us be encouraged and comforted.**

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**Our hearts exalt in you, O God. Our deepest hungers are satisfied as you give counsel and instruct our hearts. Be known to us now, that our covenant with you may be strengthened. Give confidence to all who enter this sanctuary, that our faith may grow, our love expand, and our hope find fulfillment. Show us the path of life, and grant us courage to walk in your ways. Amen.**

\***SONG OF PRAISE** - Praise Our God Together Singing Alleluia

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**MISSION MOMENT:** Beth Hunter – Angel Tree

### **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 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**

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 13

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

<sup>5</sup>It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

<sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

<sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

<sup>12</sup>For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

SERMON: How to Identify a Church      Rev. Gordon Rankin

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: #425 – For the Fruit of All Creation

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are encouraged to give as God has blessed us, bringing our offerings, not to win God's favor but to express our thanks, not out of habit but as a caring community that provokes one another to love and good deeds.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #420 We Praise You, O God

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity to share. Here are the fruits of your generosity and our hard work. In thanks for the perfect offering of Jesus Christ, we bring ourselves with our gifts. Show us how to combine our efforts to build wholesome relationships, extend your church, and minister in your name throughout the world. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: # 419 – Now Thank We All Our God

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

We welcome our guest preacher this morning: NH Conference Minister, the Rev. Gordon Rankin. We are grateful for your presence among us.

*\*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

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Sue Lindemann

Cindy Pingree

Reni Harden, Verna Elwell, Joan Crimlisk, Michael Bryan

Beth Hunter

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin



7 circuit classic labyrinth

The labyrinth pattern shown here is the Classical seven-circuit labyrinth. The first documentation of this pattern is on a Greek clay tablet of more than 3000 years ago.