

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 4, 2018 Proper 26
All Saints Sunday



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)

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN #299 – For All the Saints

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Listen and hear: our hope is in God, who made heaven and earth.

Many: Let us praise God and sing of God's glory!

One: God watches over all of God's children.

Many: Let us love God, love our neighbor and love ourselves.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Ever-Present God, we have seen the work of your hands. Where there is justice for the oppressed, we sense your presence. Where the hungry are fed, we know the providers are working with you. You set prisoners free and open the eyes of the blind. You lift up those who are bowed down and sustain the righteous with your love. We give thanks that you call us to take action, to love you and one another. Focus us now on all that is worthy of our praise. Amen.

(You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

God deserves our trust and loyalty. Yet we have not always trusted and our faithfulness is in question. This time of confession offers us the opportunity to unburden our conscience, to experience forgiveness, and to renew our covenant with the Eternal One.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Righteous God, there are so many distractions that occupy our time! There are so many groups that claim our loyalty. There are so many activities that bid for our attention. In this moment, we seek to know you and to be known by you. In your name, and joining with you, we seek justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry, and healing for all. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We can count on God's active Presence when all other hope is gone. Let us respond in gratitude to the One who deals kindly with us and whose will for us is love and joy and peace. Happy are those whose help and whose hope is in our creating, sustaining and redeeming God.

*SONG OF PRAISE #236: Halleluja

ANTHEM - Alleluia Canon

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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #332 As We Gather At Your Table

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

We celebrate Communion by coming forward, starting in the back of the sanctuary. Come forward to receive your morsel of bread and **eat it as soon as** you receive it. **Gluten free** option is served by the middle server. You may then move to the next server where you will receive your cup of grape juice – or water, whichever is better for you. 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

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the Presence of our Lord. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. 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: Isaiah 25:6-9

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 12:28-34

SERMON: Love is Greatest

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: #336 – Here, O My Lord, I See You Face To Face (Remain seated.)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our energies and our resources are claimed by whatever is truly most important to us. From God, we have received love so amazing that a lifetime of thanks is inadequate response. When God is at the center of our lives, our giving reflects the fact. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Receive from us, O God, the best we have to give. All we have comes from you. We return a portion with joy to accomplish the work we intend to do together in your name. We bring ourselves as well, to be blessed by you, so that while we are apart our words and deeds will continue to be a significant offering. May our lives praise you! Amen.

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

*HYMN: #295 – I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

COMMUNION REFLECTION

PRAYER of COMMUNION 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.

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

Sue Lindemann, Harry Handy

Anne Englehardt

Diaconate

Verna Elwell

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth, for the Lord has spoken.
⁹ It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”
²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’
³¹ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”
³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

In conjunction with the Kindness Curriculum that is being featured in Sunday School, we invite you to participate and share your experience. Here are some examples:

1. Pay it Backward: buy coffee for the person behind you in line.
2. Compliment the first three people you talk to today.
3. Send a positive text message to five different people right now.
4. Post inspirational sticky notes around your neighborhood, office, school, etc.
5. Tell someone they dropped a dollar (even though they didn't). Then give them a dollar.
6. Donate old towels or blankets to an animal shelter.
7. Say hi to the person next to you on the elevator.
8. Surprise a neighbor with freshly baked cookies or treats!
9. Let someone go in front of you in line who only has a few items.
10. Leave a gas gift card at a gas pump.
11. Throw a party to celebrate someone just for being who they are, which is awesome.
12. Have a LinkedIn account? Write a recommendation for coworker or connection.