

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

January 13, 2019
First Sunday after Epiphany



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

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WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; JANUARY BIRTHDAYS;
SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN # 22- Sing Praise to God

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Listen! God calls us and names us.

Many: The voice of God thunders through our midst.

One: God, who created you, knows you completely.

Many: God reaches out to strengthen us and bring us through chaos.

One: Let us ascribe to God all glory and honor.

Many: Let us worship God in awe, wonder, and joy!

*INVOCATION (unison)

God of cleansing waters and purifying fires, touch our lives today to recall us to the power of our baptism and reconfirm our commitment to Jesus Christ. Name us again as your beloved people: precious, gifted, created to glorify you in all that we say and do. Send your Holy Spirit to energize our worship and enliven our witness in the world. Hear us as we pray for one another and for your church in every place. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE # 756- Gloria

CHOIR ANTHEM: "You Are Mine" by David Haas

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

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: Isaiah 43:1-7

- ¹But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- ⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 3: 15-22

- ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."
- ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.
- ¹⁹ But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added to them all by shutting up John in prison.
- ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON: Filled with Expectation

HYMN: # 283 Spirit of the Living God

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has gathered us from every direction under the heavens to offer our best in worship and praise. Now we bring the fruits of our labor as an offering of thanks. We invest in people and programs, near and far, to benefit God's scattered children who have missed the majesty. Let our generosity aspire to match the lavish gifts of God.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY #760 - Masithi**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

For bringing us safely to this hour, we give you thanks, O God of wind and fire. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your mercy. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received. May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ, in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving. Amen.

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

*HYMN: # 82 – Go, My Children, With My Blessing

BENEDICTION

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

Diane Breeden, Joanne Worthen

LAY READER

Sue Lindemann

USHERS

Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Nancy Berry, 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

SUBSTITUTE ACCOMPANIST

Kaitlyn Leahy

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Guerrin