

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 6, 2019**  
**Second Sunday after Christmas**



**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 # 160- Hark! the Herald Sing (Jesus the Light of the World)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: True light is entering our world through Jesus Christ.

**Many: Sing for joy and praise God, all people.**

One: God created the winds to blow and water to flow.

**Many: We are charged to care for God's great world!**

One: Receive the Word, and believe the good news.

**Many: The Word became flesh to dwell with humanity.**

### \*INVOCATION (unison)

**From near and far, we come to worship. Amid our joys and sorrows, we come to praise. In our strength and in our weakness, we gather for refreshment and renewal. Praise be to you, O God, for your protecting love and freeing grace. Shine upon us here that we may know your truth and receive it into our lives. Amen.**

(You may be seated.)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

God has set before us straight paths to follow, but we have stumbled along our own byways. God shows us the way of peace, but we choose the vanity of competition and strife. God is calling us now to repentance and new life.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Infinite God, look upon your finite creatures, broken and bereaved, with compassion and consolation. We view your world with unseeing eyes. We listen but do not hear. You offer wisdom and insight, but we misunderstand your counsel. O God, help us change the direction of our lives so we may act like your children and reflect your love into the world. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's gift of new life is ever available. The Holy Spirit is at work in our midst. God grant that we may open our eyes, unstop our ears, and live with empathy for all of God's children. With faith, we can live our beliefs, praising God who has blessed us in Christ Jesus.

### \*SONG OF PRAISE # 756- Gloria

ANTHEM - Shepherds Left Their Flocks A-Straying (Oxford Book of Carols, #79)

## **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

Christine Lehoullier

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #330 — Let Us Break Bread Together

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 60:1-6

NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON: Sometimes, We Must Take Another Road

HYMN: #159- As With Gladness

## **WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER**

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

In these moments, we are challenged - not just to reach for a contribution, but to reorder our lives. Let us look beyond pledges to productivity. Will we be enlightened by the gifts we dedicate here? How will the world be changed by our investment in this community of faith?

OFFERTORY MUSIC

**\*DOXOLOGY #760 - Masithi**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Your goodness, O God, has satisfied us with abundance beyond our deserving. The return on your investment in us is not adequate to express our thanks. Use our lives as channels of your grace. May our individual efforts and the combined outreach we can accomplish together turn mourning into joy and hopelessness into purposeful living. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

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

**\*HYMN: # 148 – What Child Is This?**

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

SUBSTITUTE ACCOMPANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Diane Breeden, Joanne Worthen

Ryan Lehoullier

Diaconate

Tom "Woody" Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Kaitlyn Leahy

Michelle Guerrin

## OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.



## NEW TESTAMENT: Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

