

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

February 3, 2019
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome Boy Scouts!!



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; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN # 541 They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, to the One in whom we trust.

Many: God is our rock of refuge, our strong fortress.

One: Hope in God, who has formed you in the womb.

Many: God accepts and affirms us, even when people do not.

*INVOCATION (unison)

God of love, in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service, encounter us in this hour, that we may grow in faith and that our actions demonstrate that faith in You. Amen.

(You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

How often we have been ruled by our fears rather than our faith? How often we have trusted in cultural pressures rather than trusting in God? Let us seek God's forgiveness, that we may know God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You care about us even when we do not love ourselves. We hear your Word so faintly that we doubt your Presence. We dare not trust the prophets nor risk the cost of discipleship. (Moment of Silence.)

O God, grant us courage to change what we can and to follow Jesus in truth and in love – in spite of how difficult that may be. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God does not condemn us for our imperfection nor abandon us to our fears. The One who designed our being promises to be with us when we are challenged, to deliver us when it seems the whole world is against us, and to love us at all circumstances. We are forgiven; we are healed; and we are empowered for God's ministry in our midst.

*SONG OF PRAISE # 2 vs 1- Glory, Glory Hallelujah

ANTHEM: "One Bread, One Body" by John B. Foley, S.J. (see insert)

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

Kathryn Cobban

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #349 - I Come With Joy

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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GOD'S WORK IN OUR WORLD

SCOUTING – Achieving the Eagle

Michael Rounds

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 1:4-10

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 4:21-30

SERMON: “I am only a boy”

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

*HYMN: # 286- Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God has called the church to be an agent of change. With prophetic voice and courageous work, we are to influence the world. Such a task requires our best: our continued growth in faith, our commitment to love, our giving of self and substance. The resources we dedicate here are a symbol of our whole life response. Let us give joyfully and as generously as we are able.

OFFERTORY MUSIC Amazing Grace Nicholas Burke, Xavier Cross, trumpets

***DOXOLOGY #760 - Masithi**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

With awe and wonder before you, O God, we dare to enlist all our efforts toward the realization of your Will among us. Where there is injustice, we would champion those oppressed and misunderstood. When some feel rejected, we reach out to accept them in Christ's name. May these offerings preach and teach and heal in your loving name. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #347 – Let Us Talent and Tongues Employ

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

Members of the Congregation

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

LAY READER

Boy Scouts

USHERS

Diaconate

GREETER

Boy Scouts

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Debbie Gline Allen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Christine Lehoullier

ACCOMPANIST

Chris Ferrin

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Guerrin

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But
the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to **build and to plant.**”

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 4:21-30

²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.
They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me
this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the
things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no
prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many
widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six
months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of
them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers^[a] in Israel
in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the
Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up,
drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built,
so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and
went on his way.

One Bread, One Body
Words and Music by John B. Foley, S.J.

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.**

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

Grains for the fields, scattered and grown, one for all.