

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 24, 2019

Seventh 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)

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: #423- Great Is Your Faithfulness

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come near to one another and to our God.

Many: This is the hour for quieting life's stresses and worries.

One: God – who is our refuge - will be revealed to us.

Many: Our faith nourishes us all as we rest in God's care.

One: We are here to receive life in all its abundance.

Many: God raises us up and sends us forth.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Loving God, you and hope to our hearts. We draw near to you as survivors of another week, grateful for your care. You have invited us once more to this time of prayer. Now we would still before you, leaving behind our distress and anger, entrusting our weaknesses to your empowering spirit. Raise us up to embrace your way of love. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE # 2 - Glory, Glory Hallelujah

ANTHEM "Here I Am to Worship"

Light of the world you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that you're my God.

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, O so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.

Humbly you came to the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

I'll never know how much is cost to see my sin upon that cross.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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 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.”**

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708716.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 45:3-11,15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him,

‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 6:27-38

²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

SERMON: "A Good Measure: Pressed Down, Shaken Together, Running Over"

WE RESPOND WITH SONG, SILENCE AND PRAYER

*HYMN: # 471 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

MOMENT FOR IN-REACH Liz Greenberg

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our prosperity in comparison with most of the world's people gives us the joyous opportunity to be generous. We can go beyond the expected tithes and offerings required of our spiritual ancestors. We are privileged to offer mercy and help that can transform the lives of others. Let us give with delight, that our brothers and sisters may know God's Presence.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY #760 - Masithi**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts. Heal us of unjust anger, jealousy, and strife. Through our shared life in this community of faith, create in us the image of one who dwells in heaven. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from your hand. Amen.

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

*HYMN: # 77 – Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACON

LAY READER

USHERS

GREETER

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Sue Lindemann

Julie Turner

Stanley Gorgol, Holly Gorgol, Tom Cooper

Carol Guerrin

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin