

First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

March 10, 2019
First Sunday of Lent



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: #23 – There's A Wilderness In God's Mercy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We worship the One who gives and sustains life.

Many: God offers us forgiveness and healing.

One: Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy.

Many: For God keeps covenant with God's children gathered here.

*INVOCATION (unison)

God of covenant promises, as we gather to remember and share our sacred stories of faith, we are nothing without you, and we are staggered by the immensity of who you are. Let us here glorify your Presence among us, so that we may know the reality of a life in your light – no matter where we've come from, no matter how far we've fallen. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE # 756 – Gloria in Excelsis Deo

ANTHEM: On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas

Please join us in singing the refrain:

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

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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

Anne-Marie Merrill

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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GOD'S WORK IN OUR WORLD

Moment for Mission: Shelley Koza, the Upper Room

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹ and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON: "It's not just history – it's our story"

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

*HYMN: Bless the Lord, My Soul (Taizé)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

All we have and all we are belong to God. The gift of life lays upon us the responsibility to give back. Yet we give not to pay off our debts but because we have learned to be thankful. Our offerings are tokens of an inexpressible gratitude.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY #780**

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**

How great you are, O God, and how generously you have blessed us! We bring our offerings with joy and thanksgiving. May they extend a welcome to friends and neighbors, strangers and foreigners. Let the message we send to the world be an authentic witness to the gospel. Bless the work we do and the ministry of others on our behalf, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

*HYMN: # 391- In the Midst of New Dimensions

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

Rachel Cobban

Ryan Lehoullier

Dusty Patrick, Margie Ives, Michael Bryan

Tom Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin