

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

**March 24, 2019**

**Third 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: #434- All Beautiful the March of Days

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Listen carefully to God and delight in the rich food God provides.

**Many: Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast.**

One: God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship.

**Many: Let us seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.**

### **\*INVOCATION (unison)**

**We come before you, gracious God, seeking what money cannot buy. Only you can provide nourishment for our souls. As a community of faith, we call on you, believing that you are nearer than our next breath, more available to us than we can think, more caring than we ever dare to imagine. Uphold us now that we may worship on wings of joy. Amen.**

### **\*SONG OF PRAISE # 756 – Gloria in Excelsis Deo**

### **ANTHEM: How Can It Be?**

*Music by Gabriel Faure, Words by Charles Wesley, Arranged by Lloyd Larson*

### **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**

Debbie Gline Allen

### **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: Psalm 63:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.
- <sup>3</sup> Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
- <sup>5</sup> My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
- <sup>6</sup> when I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
- <sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
- <sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 13:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."
- <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**SERMON:** God's Last Ditch Effort

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

\*HYMN: #772 – Nothing Can Trouble

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

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

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

Why do we use our money for things that do not satisfy, or invest our time in activities without meaning or purpose? God offers us a way of life that satisfies. What we cannot buy, God freely gives us. Our offerings are one way of expressing our thanks. The morning offering will now be received.

### **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**

**All that we present to You now, O God, we have received from Your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We invest in just causes, that Your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on Your gifts in generous response is necessary to a fulfilling life. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: # 436 – God of Grace, and God of Glory

### **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

Ryan Lehoullier

Anne Englehardt

Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan

Joyce Pope

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin