

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

March 3, 2019
Eight 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 # 182 – We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The Word goes forth from the mouth of God.
Many: **It is good to give thanks to God.**
One: Let us join in songs of gladness and praise.
Many: **Our work gains meaning as God strengthens us.**

***INVOCATION (unison)**

Before the mystery of your grace, we open ourselves to your light and leading, O holy God. In your courts, we are renewed. Our limitations are transcended. Our presumptions are modified. The foundations of our lives are rebuilt. Fill our lives with the joy and peace that you alone can give. Amen. (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We who are quick to notice the flaws in others often cannot see our own faults. When we propose to remove the speck from another's eye, we may not see the log in our own. This is a time to bow humbly before our Creator, that God may help us to see ourselves as we are and to become the persons we are intended to be.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wondrous and gracious God, we are a fearful, distant people. We are afraid of change, reluctant to grow, and distressed when our discipleship is challenged. We listen to your Word but our lives are filled with thorns and brambles that flourish. The good in us cannot bear fruit because it is choked out by weeds. Hear us, O God; we want to grow nearer to You. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We will be changed. That is God's promise. Even now, God is creating new life within us. Let us rejoice to receive God's gifts. Let us listen once more to the stories of Jesus. Let us dare to grow to be like our teacher.

***SONG OF PRAISE # 765 - Alleluia**

SPECIAL MUSIC- Kaitlyn Leahy

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

Katie Cobban

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.**"

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: Exodus 34:29-35

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 9:28-36

SERMON: Sharing The Light and Love of God

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

*HYMN: Holy Ground

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now, we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

Words & Music: Geron Davis, © 1983 Meadowgreen Music Co.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708716.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Bread to eat and seeds to plant are among God's gifts, entrusted to us to accomplish God's purposes. All the treasures God loans to us are meant to produce good fruit among us. Today we give as we have been blessed.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give thanks, O God, that our wealth and our hands can support your work in the world. Your abundant gifts fill us with joy in sharing. Open our eyes to the opportunities around us to provide teaching, healing, and faithful service. When we see what you would have us do, help us make a faithful response. May this offering reach out to people in need of your love. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #8 – Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

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

Joanne Worthen, Rachel Cobban

LAY READER

Diaconate

USHERS

Tom Woods

GREETER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

Debbie Gline Allen

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Christine Lehoullier

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Chris Ferrin

ACCOMPANIST

Michelle Guerrin

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 34:29-35

29Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. 31But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. 32Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; 34but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 9:28-36

28Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. 34While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” 36When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.