

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

April 14, 2019

Palm Sunday

**FOUNDERS DAY 300 YEARS
1719 - 2019**



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

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

*HYMN: #213 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS; SHARING SOME HISTORY

INTROIT Handchime Choir: "Meditation on Brother James' Air"
by James L. Bain, arr. Lloyd Larson

PROCLAMATION Colossians 3:12-17

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Morning after morning, God grants us a new day;

Many: We wake up to the joys and challenges life presents.

One: God equips us to face whatever the day may hold;

Many: We gather, seeking a blessing in the name of God.

*INVOCATION (unison)

We come together, Gracious God, remembering how you have led us and sustained us throughout all our nights and days. We celebrate your presence and blessing of this church and its people through 300 years of history. Remind us again that your steadfast love embraces us through good times and hard times, and that we are always surrounded and upheld by your goodness. Meet us here, we pray, open our hearts, and strengthen our faith and hope. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Come, all who are waving branches to welcome the Savior, who is Christ the LORD. When the light shines on us, we see the shadows we create. We need a faith more deeply grounded and a love more fully committed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess, O God, that we like a religion that makes us feel good. We prefer safety and security and certainty. Then Jesus comes, riding on a donkey, reaching out to outsiders, proclaiming humble obedience as a virtue, challenging powerful people to change their ways. We sense danger. When Christ upsets our craving for stability, we turn away from the risks. We do not want to be rejected or face a cross. We are unsure. O God, help us! Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our Loving Creator does not give up on us when we are discouraged or reject us when our pretensions get out of hand. God, who exalted Jesus, is ready to forgive and lift us up. Christ walks with us on the way of faithfulness, empowering us to become the disciples we are called to be.

*SONG OF PRAISE #756 Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Anthem: Hosanna, Hosanna!, Joseph M. Martin & J. Paul Williams
Benjamin Allen, trumpet

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

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #330 Let Us Break Bread Together

OUR SACRED STORY with the PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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 to receive the elements in two columns, starting in the back of the sanctuary. Come forward to receive your morsel of bread found in the center and **eat it as soon as** you receive it. **Gluten free** option is available from the next 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

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.

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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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 118 1-2, 19-29

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 19:28-40

PASTOR SHARING

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

HYMN: #223 What Wondrous Love Is This

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

If Jesus Christ is to reign among us, much more will be needed than our praise and rejoicing when we are together. How do we witness and serve when we are apart? How much of ourselves and our substance will we invest?

OFFERTORY MUSIC Trumpet Tune, G.F. Handel
Benjamin Allen, Melissa Deranian, trumpets

*DOXOLOGY #780

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Grateful for your grace that is new every morning and thankful that your loving arms are always open to us, we bring our gifts, O God. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves that the reign of Jesus Christ may be realized and celebrated wherever Christians gather to worship and everywhere we scatter to serve. May the needs of all your children be addressed by those who profess to love you. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #215 Ride On! Ride On In Majesty

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACON

USHERS

GREETER

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ACCOMPANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Sue Lindemann and Ryan Lehoullier

Dusty Patrick, Joan Crimlisk, Michael Bryan

Diane Dunn

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin

WE WELCOME VISITING FORMER PASTORS: Rev. Diana J. Augspurger 1975-1988;

Rev. Nelson (Jim) Howard III 1989-1993; Rev. Sue Remick* 2010-2013;

Rev. Betty French* 2013; Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath+ 2015-2016

(* denotes Interim/ + denotes Associate)