

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

**April 21, 2019**

**Easter Sunday**



**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: #233 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing glad songs: God is creating a day of newness and joy!

Many: **God is our strength and our song;**

One: Christ has been raised from the dead.

Many: **And He assures us that we are accepted and beloved by God.**

One: Let us live as witnesses to God and to the Good News.

Many: **God is Present! Jesus lives! Let all God's peoples rejoice!**

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**With thanksgiving, praise, and joy, we worship you, spectacular God.**

**How amazing is all your creation! How glorious is this day of new life!**

**Come among us now, we pray, to raise us up from our fears and doubts and busy lives. We want to believe. We want to trust. We want to dare.**

**We want to live. Touch us today with a spirit of hope, that our discipleship may honor Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #236 Halleluja

ANTHEM: The Lord of Life Is Risen Today, Benedetto Marcello,  
arr. Hal H. Hopson, 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      Pastor Deborah

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.**

(There is no Sunday School. Children will join us for the worship service.)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

### OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

<sup>1</sup> I love you, O LORD, my strength.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### NEW TESTAMENT Luke 24:1-12

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5 The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

8 Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

### SERMON: An Idle Tale

## WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

\*HYMN: #238 Now the Green Blade Rises

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We who enjoy the work of our hands do not labor in vain. We who invest the fruits of our effort in the sharing of Good News are doubly blessed. May our gifts represent our commitment, even as they bear witness and offer healing. Let us give thanks through our offerings, which we now receive.

OFFERTORY MUSIC Voluntary in C by John Stanley,  
Benjamin Allen, trumpet

\*DOXOLOGY #780

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Thank you, God, for resurrection. We rejoice in Christ as the first fruits of all that you make available to us. As you offered Christ to the world, so we would offer ourselves. May we, along with our gifts, testify to good news of your forgiving love and empowering acceptance. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: #253 Yours Is The Glory

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Hallelujah from The Messiah, G.F. Handel,  
arr.for 2-part choir by Emily Crocker, Benjamin Allen, trumpet  
*Please rise in body or spirit in the tradition from the time of King George II  
of standing for Handel's Hallelujah Chorus*

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude) Lift High the Cross  
Benjamin Allen, trumpet

*\*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 and Ryan Lehoullier

Ryan Lehoullier

Brian Williams, Margie Ives, Pat Cefaly, Michael Bryan

Carol Guerrin

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin