

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

**April 28, 2019**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**



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: #230 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God is our strength and our salvation;  
let everything that breathes praise our God!

**Many: This is the day that God has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

One: Praise God for mighty deeds and extravagant love.  
Praise God for loving care and answered prayer.

**Many: Let us will give thanks this day, for God is good.  
The steadfast love of God endures forever.**

One: Grace to you and peace from the One who is  
and who was and who is to come.

**Many: We are witnesses to the God who acts in our time.  
We are here to offer our worship and praise.**

### \*INVOCATION (unison)

**God of all our beginnings, may this day and every day begin with our praise to you. Let every breath become a witness to your Spirit, dwelling within and among us. Open our hearts to receive your saving gifts. Loosen our tongues to proclaim your unsurpassed greatness. May the noise of our celebration help your people to sense your powerful presence and to claim the joy of serving you, in Christ's name. Amen.**

### \*SONG OF PRAISE #236 Halleluja

### **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

Christine Lehoullier

### 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 150

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!

<sup>5</sup> Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD!

NEW TESTAMENT: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON: Coming to Believe: The Process of a Lifetime

## WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

\*HYMN: #292 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

As the apostles filled Jerusalem with their teaching about Jesus, we are called to bring good news to the world. Our witness is in word and deed, in time and treasure. Give thanks in all things, for God is good. With our gifts we express thanks for God's steadfast love which endures forever. The morning offering will now be received.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #780 Praise God from whom all blessings flow

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**For the breath of life, for eyes to see, for insight to believe, for courage to witness, we give thanks, gracious God. The signs of your presence are everywhere. Your glory and dominion are forever and ever. May this offering witness to your grace and peace. Grant your Spirit as a transforming power among us that inspires and enables our service. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN: #242 The Strife Is O'er

### 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

Sue Lindemann, Ryan Lehoullier

John Bartel

Ken Gould, Liz Greenberg, Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan

Diane Dunn

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin