

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

April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday after Lent

Communion 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; BIRTHDAYS, JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: # 55 Rejoice, You Pure In Heart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's spirit is moving among us; let us give thanks!

Many: Our God is about to do a new thing in our midst.

One: Will we be ready to risk new behaviors to be faithful?

Many: Let us greet our future and respond to the call of Christ.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Wonderful God, we give thanks that you have called us to be your people. In our times of despair, you have sent your light. When we are weary and discouraged, you lift us up. In our thirst for meaning and purpose, you bring us to the living water in Jesus Christ. Set before us now the joy of discovery and a vision of future possibilities. Unite us in faith with Christ as our center and inspiration. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

How quickly we bemoan our struggles instead of recognizing all of the many reasons for gratitude and joy! How often we cling to the past rather than heeding God's call to new life. We are invited to confess our negativity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we settle for lesser goals while you summon us to embrace the realm of heaven. We need forgiveness, O God. Do a new thing within and among us, we earnestly pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

God summons us to turn toward goodness where God welcomes us. We are restored to full communion and are united in the heavenly call of Christ. Let us embrace God's pardon with renewed faith and joy.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Lord I need You" with Shellie Aseltine and 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

Ken Williams

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #335 Come, Gather in This Special Place

OUR SACRED STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and 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

**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: Isaiah 43:16-21

NEW TESTAMENT: John 12:1-8

*HYMN: #210 Said Judas To Mary

SERMON: “Redefining Moments”

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

HYMN: #293 Sweet, Sweet Spirit (v1) Please remain seated.

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The most lavish gifts we can bring are never enough to thank God for all that we have received. Yet the tiniest offerings we present do not escape God's notice when presented with full commitment and devotion. Let us give with generous hearts.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY # 780** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Beneficent God, we are glad for all the good things you have done for us. We count everything as loss before the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ. Receive our generous offerings and our best efforts, here dedicated for your use. Fill the hearts of all your children with laughter and joy. To that end, bless our offerings. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #44 Beautiful Jesus

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

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

Joanne Worthen

Diaconate

Tom Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin