

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

May 26, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter



(The many decorative wooden lanterns that will go on the steeple.)

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

PROCLAMATION: Jesus said:

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

*HYMN: # 31 All Things Bright and Beautiful

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to this place of prayer; God is calling us.

Many: We have come to hear the Word of God.

One: Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

Many: We have brought with us all that weighs us down

One: As we begin our time of worship, let us remember.

Many: We remember fallen soldiers, and the sacrifice they made for the sake of others.

One: As we remember, let us give thanks.

Many: We thank God for brave men and women who have given their lives so that we may worship without fear.

One: Let us begin our time of worship with a moment of silence; for a moment is the least we can do for those that gave their eternity.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

*INVOCATION (unison)

Creator of all things, we bring to you our prayers of thanksgiving and praise. You have provided the water of life for our baptism and you have fed us with the fruits of the earth and nourished us through your Word. God of every nation, as we remember those who gave their lives for our sake, let us be stirred to positive action in their memory. We confess that we have not always taken steps to promote peace and justice in our world. We have not always loved our neighbors, let alone our enemies. Forgive us for failing to live up to our covenant with you. Empower us to work for your Presence in this world, and welcome us by your grace into your Presence in the next. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE: Praise Our God Together Singing Alleluia!

ANTHEM: On Eagle's Wings by Michael Joncas

Please join us in singing the refrain, found in your hymnal: #775

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.

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.”**

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WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

BOOK OF ACTS: Acts 16:9-15

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 14:23-29

²³ Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, ^[a] the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

SERMON: Passing the Peace

SILENCE AND PRAYER

*HYMN: #249 Peace I Leave With You, My Friends

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What do we have to give? Only what we have received. The earth has yielded its increase. God has blessed us in more ways than we can count. Let us offer to God more than support of a church. Let us offer ourselves for the healing of the nations. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies Benjamin Allen, trumpet

*DOXOLOGY: To the tune of #215 ("Ride On, Ride On In Majesty")

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. Amen.

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

*HYMN: # 591 This Is My Song

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

INTERIM ACCOMPANIST

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Brian Williams

Ryan Lehoullier

Brian Williams, Margie Ives, Pat Cefaly, Michael Bryan

Joyce Pope

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Kaitlyn Leahy

Michelle Guerrin