

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

May 5, 2019
Third 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 #86 When Morning Gilds the Skies

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing praises to God, and give thanks to God's holy name.

Many: Let us praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.

One: Let us extol the One who upholds us when we are discouraged.

Many: God hears our cries and lifts our souls from the pit of despair.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Come to us as a light from heaven, Holy God. Pierce the shadows of doubt, despair, anger and scorn that trouble us. Awaken us to a worship that is alive with awe and wonder, spontaneity, and joy. Surprise us with a presence we cannot avoid, a summons we dare not evade, and a mission we cannot escape. We gather in the love of Christ. Amen. (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

What questions is God asking us as we examine our faith and faithfulness? Have our attitudes been rigid or flexible? Do we live by a self-limiting agenda or by a God-given mission? Surely we have much to confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your family. Awaken us to our own limited understanding and the narrowness of our thinking. Show us the expansive ways you intend and make us bold to respond, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

Let the scales fall from your eyes. God is offering new sight. Unplug your ears. God is offering new hearing God is claiming you as a beloved servant. Reach out to feed and care and follow where Christ leads. You are forgiven and claimed and sent. Know this.

*SONG OF PRAISE # 236 Halleluja

ANTHEM: To Our God by Brian Johnson, Jeremy Riddle, & Joel Taylor

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

Anne- Marie Merrill

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC: Miserere Nobis by Terre McPheeters

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the Presence of our Lord. Strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another as we remember His love for us. 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 30

NEW TESTAMENT: John 21: 1-19

SERMON: Feed the Lambs of God

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER and SILENCE

HYMN: #438 When Peace, Like a River (verses 1&2)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Who will carry the name of Christ into the marketplace? Who will try new ways of faithfulness? Our offerings involve all who give. They empower those who serve. They express our praise and thanksgiving while witnessing to the reign of love in our midst. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring our offerings to feed your lambs and tend your sheep, gracious God. May these gifts extend love in the form of food, pure water, shelter, and acceptance. Let them provide outreach to the world and opportunities for growth within this congregation. Help us focus on what is important, that we may work together to make a difference in the world. Amen.

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

*HYMN: #492 I Would Be True

COMMUNION REFLECTION

PRAYER of COMMUNION THANKSGIVING (in unison)

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.

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

Joanne Worthen, Rachel Cobban

Cyndi Gray

Diaconate

Tom Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Chris Ferrin

Michelle Guerrin