

First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
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Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

June 2, 2019

Ascension



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

\*HYMN #260 Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Clap your hands, all you people of God.

Many: **Sing praises to our Creator, sing praises!**

One: We are called to be witnessing people.

Many: **Let us testify to God's loving covenant in Jesus Christ.**

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**Most high God, Creator of all worlds, Mother and Father of wonder, we seek to know you more fully in this time of worship. Reveal yourself to us here. Grant us knowledge beyond words, a presence that transcends description, and a hope that empowers faithful service. Amen.** (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our worship celebrates God's presence in all creation. We are a part of that creation. We can choose whether or not to acknowledge God's sovereignty in our individual lives and in the church. Do our deeds reflect the immeasurable greatness of God's power? Do they mark us as disciples of Jesus Christ? Join me in admitting where we fall short.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we realize how poorly we have lived into your dream for us in this world. We suffer from our abundance, which clouds our judgment and convinces us we need more material things to feel happy. How often do we speak of our faith? How often do we proclaim the Gospel to others? Have we acted on behalf of the refugee or the addicted? Our witness to Jesus Christ is a pale reflection of the joy expressed by the early disciples. Forgive our short-sightedness. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Repentance opens the way for forgiveness. God restores all who are truly penitent. Drink from the streams of living water. Receive the power of the Holy Spirit - that you may forgive as you have been forgiven.

\*SONG OF PRAISE #236 Caribbean 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

Katie Cobban

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### COMMUNION HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread

### 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 **gluten free** morsel of bread and **eat it as soon as** you receive it.

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

### 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

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 1:1-11

SERMON: “Blessing them; Blessing God”

## **WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS; SILENCE; PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN #257 Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

There are times when it is appropriate to stand gazing into the heavens. There are seasons for withdrawing to pray. But there are also times to get to work. As we offer ourselves in the service of Jesus Christ, we return our tithes and extra gifts to extend ministry beyond the limits of our own reach.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY #785 We Give You But Our Own

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**For the life you have offered, for the vision you have granted, for the ministry of Jesus Christ that empowers our witness, we give thanks. May these offerings of gratitude extend the positive influence of Christ's church into parts of the world that have not experienced good news. By the act of giving, may our own commitment be deepened. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

### 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

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

Joanne Worthen

Diane Breeden

Diaconate

Tom "Woody" Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Debbie Gline Allen

Christine Lehoullier

Kaitlyn Leahy

Michelle Guerrin