

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

July 7, 2019



Steeple Comes Home – June 27, 2019

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Sung)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be your living
Sanctuary for you.

*HYMN #592 God of the Ages

*INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, our helper, we greet you this morning with joy and thanksgiving. We feel your welcome and anticipate your teaching. Show us this day what you would have us do. May our ears be attentive to your Word, and our hearts be responsive to the opportunities you grant us. Amen. (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Who among us has not wanted to shape God to our own specifications? How often we have wanted to define truth for everyone else and to judge others by standards we ourselves cannot keep. Whether our shortcomings reside in what we have or what we have done, in what we have failed to do or in prideful comparisons with other people, let us confess them now.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gentle and gracious God, we know we have not lived up to your intentions for us. You would have us act as ambassadors of peace - and instead we pick fights with our sisters and brothers. You commission us to travel light - and we become bogged down by our possessions. You ask us to help ease the burdens others carry, but we watch from a distance hesitant to act. Patient God, will you forgive us again? Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

Lives are healed when pretensions are cast aside. God extends mercy and peace to all who are sincerely penitent. Turn away from temptation, knowing that God will strengthen you in fulfilling the love of Christ.

*SONG OF PRAISE #759 Gloria Patri

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

Nancy Murdock

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN #321 Break Now the Bread of Life

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 **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

Jesu, Joy Of Mans Desiring Ben Allen, Trumpet

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.**

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

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 10:1-6

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Kings 5:1-14

SERMON: Pervading Peace and Jubilant Justice

*HYMN # 588 Let Justice Flow like Streams (Please stand.)

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS; SILENCE; PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

In our giving, we extend a welcome, practice hospitality, offer healing, become reapers in God's harvest, and extend the peace of God to the world. May our offerings honor the one who gives us all we have. Our morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With gratitude for your gracious favor, we dedicate these gifts. May they help others as we have been helped. May they reach out in a spirit of gentleness to restore to community those who are alienated. May they announce to the world that the realm of God is among us, waiting to be claimed. By these resources, may your name be praised here and in many other places. 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

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Brian Williams

Brian Williams

Diaconate

Tom "Woody" Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Joan Virga

Christine Lehoullier

Michelle Guerrin

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 10:1-6

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Kings 5:1-14 (The Message)

⁵ ¹⁻³ Naaman was general of the army under the king of Aram. (Syria) He was important to his master, who held him in the highest esteem because it was by him that God had given victory to Aram: a truly great man, but afflicted with a grievous skin disease. It so happened that Aram, on one of its raiding expeditions against Israel, captured a young girl who became a maid to Naaman's wife. One day she said to her mistress, "Oh, if only my master could meet the prophet of Samaria, he would be healed of his skin disease."

⁴ Naaman went straight to his master and reported what the girl from Israel had said.

⁵ "Well then, go," said the king of Aram. "And I'll send a letter of introduction to the king of Israel."

So (Naaman) went off, taking with him about 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and ten sets of clothes.

⁶ Naaman delivered the letter to the king of Israel. The letter read, "When you get this letter, you'll know that I've personally sent my servant Naaman to you; heal him of his skin disease."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he was terribly upset, ripping his robe to pieces. He said, "Am I a god with the power to bring death or life that I get orders to heal this man from his

disease? What's going on here? That king's trying to pick a fight, that's what!"

⁸ Elisha the man of God heard what had happened, that the king of Israel was so distressed that he'd ripped his robe to shreds. He sent word to the king, "Why are you so upset, ripping your robe like this? Send him to me so he'll learn that there's a prophet in Israel."

⁹ So Naaman with his horses and chariots arrived in style and stopped at Elisha's door.

¹⁰ Elisha **sent out a servant** to meet him with this message: "Go to the River Jordan and immerse yourself seven times. Your skin will be healed and you'll be as good as new."

¹¹⁻¹² **Naaman lost his temper.** He turned on his heel saying, "I thought he'd personally come out and meet me, call on the name of God, wave his hand over the diseased spot, and get rid of the disease. The Damascus rivers, Abana and

Pharpar, are cleaner by far than any of the rivers in Israel. Why not bathe in them? I'd at least get clean." **He stomped off, mad as a hornet.**

¹³ But his servants caught up with him and said, "**Father, if the prophet had asked you to do something hard and heroic, wouldn't you have done it? So why not this simple 'wash and be clean'?**"

¹⁴ So he did it. He went down and immersed himself in the Jordan seven times, following the orders of the Holy Man. His skin was healed; it was like the skin of a little baby. He was as good as new.