

First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road
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August 11, 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

*HYMN # Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God (twice)

And His righteousness; And all these things shall be added unto you

Allelu Alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you

Seek and ye shall find

Knock and it shall be opened unto you; Allelu Alleluia

We do not live by bread alone - but by every word

that proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu Alleluia

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gather before God, oh, people of the covenant.

Many: Let us listen for God's Word to us here.

One: Come to honor God and give thanks.

Many: God calls us as workers for justice.

*INVOCATION (unison)

For the rich heritage we have received from your hand, we are grateful, O God. You have fashioned our hearts and observed our deeds. Teach us here what we need to know in order to live faithfully in this troubled world. Lead us beyond the routines of worship to a genuine, life-changing encounter with you. Amen.

*SONG OF PRAISE #84 "This is the Day" (1st verse only)

This is the Day (twice) that our God has made! (twice)

We will rejoice (twice) and be glad in it (twice)

This is the Day that our God has made We will rejoice and be glad in it;

This is the Day (twice) that our God has made!

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

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

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. ¹³The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind.

¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—
¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.

¹⁶A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

¹⁸Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.

²¹Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose

architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers

and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

SERMON: Diana Sweeney

HYMN: #381 Faith of the Matyrs

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When you invest generously in the work to which God calls us, your whole life is drawn into fulfilling relationships with God and with the people you are helping. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #8 Praise to the Living God (1st verse only)

**Praise to the Living God, the God of love and light,
Whose Word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your caring realm, where we claim the needs of others as our concern. We are finding a homeland in your service and we are grateful. Above all, may our offerings be an outpouring of thanksgiving for a God who does not forget us. Your promises are sure and your faithfulness is to all generations.

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

*HYMN #525 This Little Light of Mine

BLESSING

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACON

Ryan Lehoullier

USHERS

Brian Williams, Margie Ives, Pat Cefaly, Michael Bryan

GREETER

Diane Dunn

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST

Joan Virga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Christine Lehoullier

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michelle Guerrin