

First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road
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August 18, 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

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH #881

*HYMN # 436 God of Grace and God of Glory

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God welcomes you to this hour of prayer.

Many: God calls us by name and anticipates our arrival.

One: God is like a gardener, carefully tending his vines.

Many: God has provided richly our lives are sustained by God's gifts.

One: Sing praise to the one who delights in our faithfulness.

Many: May God's face shine on us and give us life.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Surrounded by a rich heritage of faith, we seek to know you, God, in this time of worship. Thankful for our spiritual ancestors, we return to our roots to find our true identity. We lay aside all that weighs us down and fills us with doubts so we can give attention to your call and your message. Meet us here, we pray. 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!

SPECIAL MUSIC: Guest Grace Hurni on violin

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

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 11: 29-31; 12:1-2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ...

¹² Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 12:49-56

⁴⁹ “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens.

⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

SERMON: What’s in Your Dash?

HYMN # 493 Oh, Jesus I Have Promised

GOD’S MISSION AMONG US

A word from Jack Kennedy: Health Access Sumbabwa

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, people of generations before us who have given their all in faithfulness to God. We give because, like our ancestors, it is a joyful opportunity to express thanks for all we have received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC Grace Hurni, violin

*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

Gracious God, Your creative energy has filled all heaven and earth with good things for us to enjoy and share. We hope to honor you with our appropriate offerings. May the programs we initiate and the outreach we support bear fruits of justice and peace. Amen.

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

*HYMN #573 Lead On, Eternal Sovereign

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACON

Diane Dunn

LAY READER

Ryan Lehoullier

USHERS

Ken Gould, Dee Deranian, Nancy Berry, 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