

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

August 4, 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 (Please stand in body or Spirit)

One: Listen, God has called us together.

**Many: Let us give thanks to God, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Let us set our minds on things that are of above.

**Many: God leads us to a new identity, to new life.
Let us seek renewal in the image of our Creator.**

*HYMN #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*INVOCATION (unison)

Loving God, in whose arms we have found our identity, come among us to direct our steps in the ways you would have us go. Teach us to walk with Christ through life's loud distractions. Turn our vain striving into meaningful service, our foolish greed into the fulfillment of sharing, our confusion into clarity of vision. May we worship you heartily this hour! Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

What does God see within us? What defenses have we created to keep God out of areas of our lives? How have we turned away from the life God intends for us? Now is the moment to come out of hiding.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, our lives are far from holy. The thoughts we have held in secret have erupted into hurtful words and deeds. We have given in to pessimism and suspicion. Precious Lord, we need your wisdom in order to live peacefully within ourselves. Help us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has invited all of us to accept renewal in the image of our Creator. In the warmth of God's love, our greed can melt away, our anger can find constructive release, and our despair can give way to hope. God will deliver us from the folly of self-preoccupation when we pray and trust.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: Joan Virga and Shellie Aseltine

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

BAPTISM: Ariana Marie Thiel and Everleigh Grace Thiel

To the gathered Congregation: As witnesses of this sacred moment, will you be an example of faith and commitment, and will you help this family in teaching the stories of our faith? If you do, please affirm by saying "We so promise."

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I invite you to stand as you are able as we unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

PASTOR: Do you believe in God? PEOPLE: **I believe in God.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ? PEOPLE: **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? PEOPLE: **I believe in the Holy Spirit.** (Congregation may sit at this time.)

At the completion: And all God's people exclaim: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: "One Bread, One Body" (insert)

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 morsel of bread and **eat it as soon as** you receive it. (**Gluten free bread is available.**)

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 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

OLD TESTAMENT: Psalm 107:1-9, 43

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 12:13-21

SERMON: Rich Toward God

*HYMN # 423 “Great Is Your Faithfulness”

WE RESPOND WITH SILENCE AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS; SILENCE; PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Everything that we currently possess will someday belong to someone else. We have the privilege in this life to do all the good we can with all that God has entrusted to us. We bring a portion now to be blessed by God in the work of our church, Christ's church, here and in other places.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Help us, O God, to dedicate not just our offerings but the whole of our beings, in service to you. Before all our attachments require "larger barns," help us to reflect on how they might better be used by others than stored for ourselves. Thank you for the abundant opportunity to share. Amen.

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

*HYMN: “Forever” (insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACON

USHERS

GREETER

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Joanne Worthen, Rachel Cobban

Diaconate

Tom “Woody” Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Joan Virga

Christine Lehoullier

Michelle Guerrin