

First Parish Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road  
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**October 13, 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 # 459 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see; Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You.  
Here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down;  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely; Altogether worthy; Altogether wonderful to me.

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**Reigning God, we see the work of Your hands. Where there is justice for the oppressed, we sense Your presence. Where the hungry are fed, we know the providers are working with You. You lift up those who are bowed down and sustain the righteous with Your love. We give thanks that You call us to join the action, to love You and one another more than the rituals of our religion or the satisfaction of our successes. Focus us now on all that You bring to us. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE

Halle, halle, Halle-lu-jah (x3)  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Gift of Love"

### **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."**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Ruth 1:1-17

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup>They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, <sup>13</sup>would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." <sup>14</sup>Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup>So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;  
where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

<sup>17</sup>Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!"

SERMON "The Gift of Ruth"

HYMN # 416 I Will Trust in the Lord (Listen as the choir sings first time.)



## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our energies and our resources are claimed by whatever is truly most important to us. If God is at the center of our lives, that will be apparent in what we give. From God we have received love so amazing that a lifetime of thanks is inadequate response. Let us give generously.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Wherever you Go" Gregory Norbet

\*DOXOLOGY We give but your own, what-e'er the gift may be.  
All that we have is Yours alone. We give it gratefully.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Receive from us, O God, the best we have to give. All we have comes from You. We return a portion with joy to accomplish the work we intend to do together in Your name. We bring ourselves as well, to be blessed by You, so that while we are apart our words and deeds will continue to be a significant offering. May our lives praise You! Amen.**

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

\*HYMN # 448 Take My Life

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

Ryan Lehoullier

Brian Williams

Dusty Patrick, Jack Martin, Michael Bryan

Maury Davidson

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Joan Virga

Christine Lehoullier

Michelle Guerrin