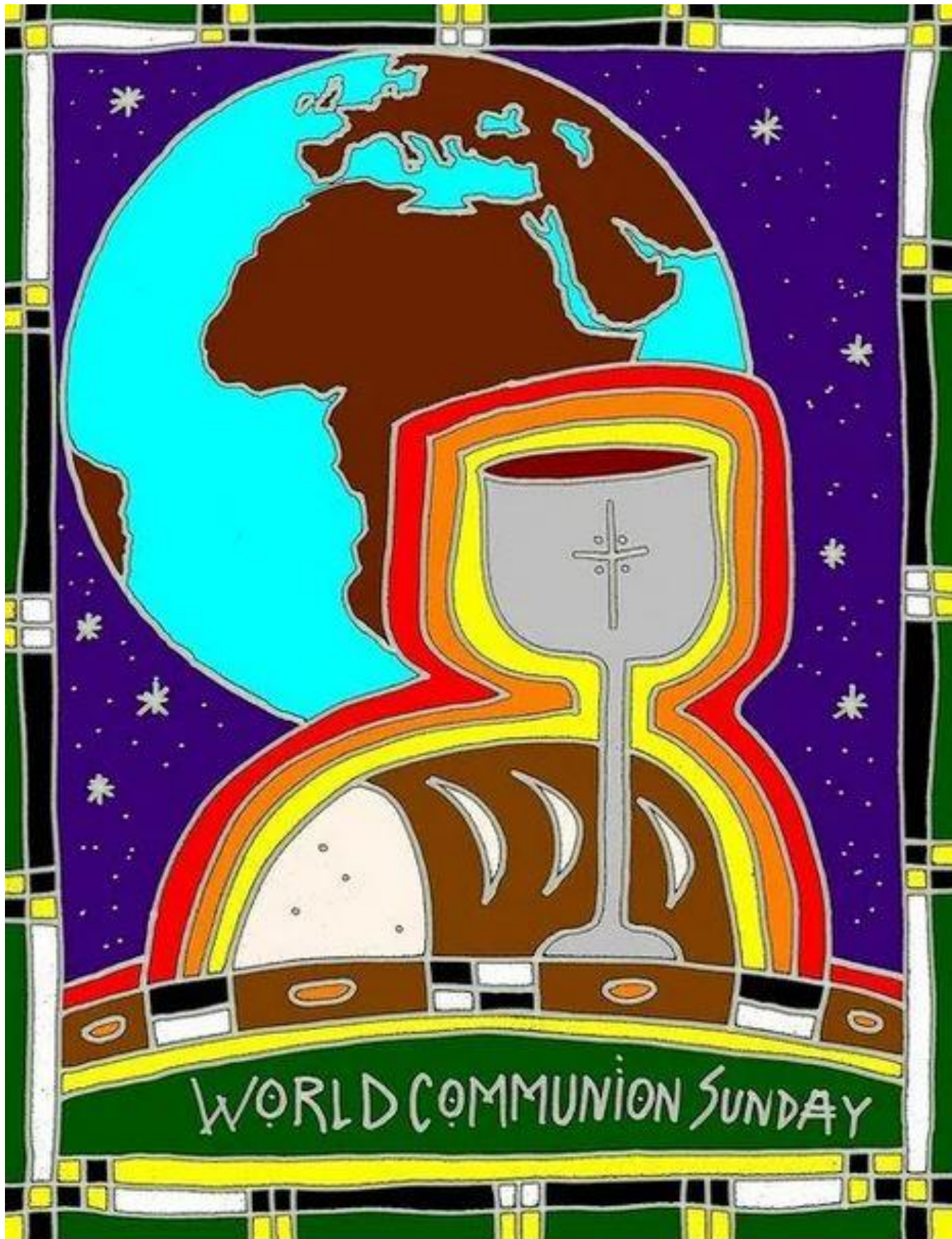


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

October 6, 2019

WORLD COMMUNION



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 # 349 I come with Joy

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit.)

One: "Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy"

Many: Let us draw near this sacred day to meditate and pray.

One: We bring our songs of joy and thankfulness to our Creator

Many: And our hearts and voices join in a chorus of praise.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Light of lights, shine into our days, granting knowledge of Your wonder in the face of Christ Jesus. In many ways, Paul's words are ours: "we are afflicted but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair, struck down but not destroyed-for we are confident of Your presence wherever we go." Reassure us once again of Your lavish generosity and abundant compassion. Amen. (You may be seated.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We hold the treasures of heaven in clay jars. We become enslaved to habits that destroy. We become addicted to activities that waste our time and energies. Let us seek forgiveness and a better way.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, help us know a vision of what life could be if we truly followed Your way. Your gifts are often ignored or overlooked. We admit our short-sighted views. We let our appetites rule us. We squander the gift of time in frivolous pursuits. O God, find us here. We want the life you offer in Jesus Christ. Forgive and help us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVNESS

God restores us to wholeness and grants us new opportunities for life. No matter how far we have strayed into the ways of darkness, we can begin again as free and forgiven children of God. Our burdens are lifted and our spirits are renewed, as God's love is rekindled within us and in all our relationships. Praise God.

*SONG OF PRAISE #756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, gloria, Alleluia Alleluia

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory in the highest.

Glory to God, glory to God. Alleluia, Alleluia

ANTHEM: "Be Still"

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: "I am a Christian"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #335 Come, Gather in This Special Place

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

As we celebrate Communion today, you will remain seated. The elements will be brought to you. You will first be invited to take the bread – **which you will HOLD so that we can ALL take the bread together.** This symbolizes that we are ONE BODY and that we are all one in the Spirit of Christ. (Please let us know if you need gluten-free bread.)

You will then be invited to take a cup of grape juice which symbolizes the cup of wine that Jesus shared with his friends, saying "This is my blood shed for you." You are invited to prayerfully drink the cup in your own time. This demonstrates that we are each individuals in God's Presence - each one doing the best that they can to be the hands and feet of Christ on this earth.

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."**

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708716.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

SERMON: "Do This and You Will Live" or "When are Laws Life-giving?"

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN How Great Art Thou (verses 1,2, 4)

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Stretch out your hands. They are gifts from God. With them, you have been able to do your work. Open your minds. With them, you have been able to solve problems. Rejoice that God has so richly blessed you and now offers you the opportunity to extend blessings to others. Let us give generously.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above you heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God of all Creation, Bless these gifts, we pray. Multiply them the way you multiplied the loaves. May the ministries that are encouraged because of these gifts touch countless lives in Your name and to Your glory. Amen.

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

*HYMN #4 Joyful, Joyful

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

DEACONS

LAY READER:

USHERS

GREETER

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Members of the Congregation

Sue Lindemann, Brian Williams

Dee Deranian

Diaconate

Tom "Woody" Woods

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Joan Virga

Christine Lehoullier

Michelle Guerrin