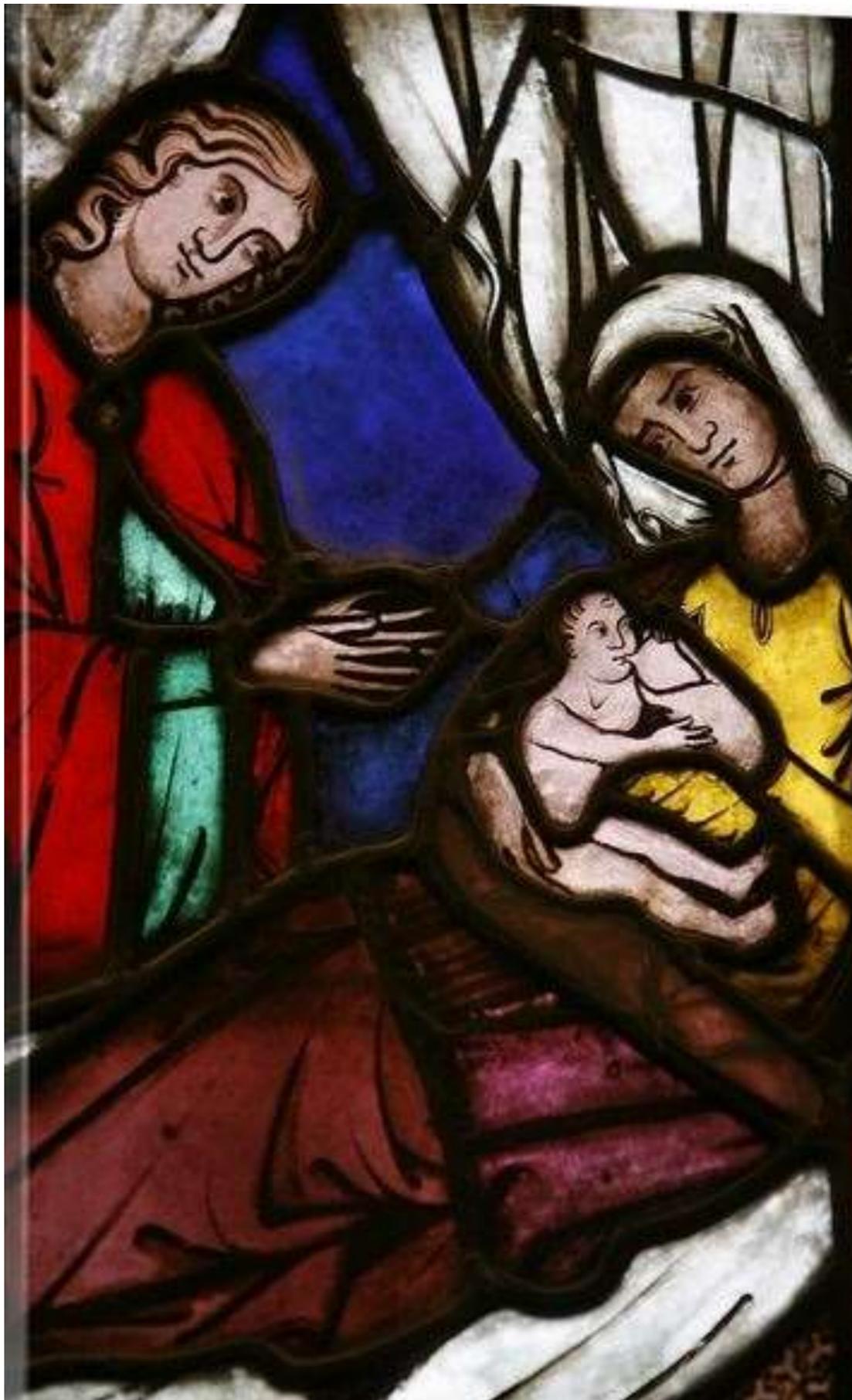


First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

September 15, 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 # 475 God's Eye Is On The Sparrow

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The God of Abraham and Sarah calls us to join together.

Many: Let us worship the God of our foremothers and fathers.

One: God calls us into a covenant community.

Many: Let us learn hospitality for our lives depend upon it.

*INVOCATION (unison)

God of promise, Abraham scoffed and Sarah laughed when they were told of your plans for them and their family. Yet you remained faithful to your promise, and gave them a son, Isaac. Help us to trust in your promises for our lives, and to live according to your will. Amen.

*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

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Rejoice"

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 - Pastor Deborah Blessing of the Backpacks

BAPTISM: (insert) Gavin Christopher McDonald

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.”**

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: Isaac, born to Sarah and Abraham: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”

¹⁰ Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

¹The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ² Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷ And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

SERMON: The Last Laugh

HYMN (insert) “Old Abram Was Blest”

GOD’S MISSION AMONG US

A word about First Parish doing Outreach and Mission – Beth Hunter

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

What shall we return to God for all the bounty we have received? Everything we have comes from God and is but loaned to us for a time. Let us offer a generous portion back to the originator of these gifts. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #760

(Masithi) Amen, si-ya-ka-du-mi-sa. (Masithi) (x 2)

Amen, Bawo; Amen Bawo; Amen, si-ya-ka-du-mi-sa.

(Sing Amen) Amen, we praise your name, oh God. (Sing Amen) (x 2)

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen; Amen, we praise your name, oh God!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, you are our refuge and stronghold, our help in troubled times. Please accept this token of our gratitude. May our gifts be multiplied in your sight that your work may be accomplished in our midst. With these prayers we dedicate these gifts. Amen.

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

*HYMN #82 Go, My Children, With My Blessing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

**Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

Members of the Congregation

DEACON

Sue Lindemann

LAY READER

Jack Martin

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