

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

September 22, 2019



Jacob wrestling the Angel of the LORD

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 # 531 God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come together to listen for the voice of our Creator.

Many: **The Word of God can change us to the core.**

*INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, your servant Jacob wrestled with your angel and prevailed. In honor of his persistence you gave him a new name. Teach us to persist in the face of struggle, and call us by name. 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

SPECIAL MUSIC On Eagle's Wings by M.Joncas

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

OLD TESTAMENT: “Jacob wrestles God” Genesis 32: 9-13; 22-30

⁹ And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,’ ¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. ¹¹ Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. ¹² Yet you have said, ‘I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.’”

¹³ So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau,...

²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷ So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸ Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.”

SERMON “Demanding a Blessing During that Dark Night of the Soul”

HYMN # 530 God Our Author and Creator

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR COMMITMENTS OF SUPPORT

A financial Stewardship message from Cathy Zylinski

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our energies and our resources are claimed by whatever is truly most important to us. When God is at our heart’s center, our giving will be most generous. Let us give with generous hearts.

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, we can't imagine the depths of your faithfulness to us. We ask your blessing upon these gifts that represent a token of what we have received from You. May they be multiplied and reach far into our world with compassion and grace. Amen.

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

***HYMN # 76 Sent Forth By God's Blessing**

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

Brian Williams

Joanne Worthen

Dee Deranian, Nancy Berry, Michael Bryan

Carol Guerrin

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

Joan Virga

Christine Lehoullier

Michelle Guerrin