

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

**March 29, 2020**



### **End of the Age**

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

CENTERING MUSIC and LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN # 204 Take Up Your Cross

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said, “if you would my disciple be: Take up your cross with willing heart and humbly follow after me”

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us present ourselves before our God.

**Many: And bring all our troubles and anxiety to God in prayer.**

One: Surely God knows our thoughts and hears our prayers.

**Many: Let us find strength for living as we praise God.**

One: Lay down any arrogance or false pride, admitting your needs to God.

**Many: Let us pour out our souls before the living God.**

One: God can give us peace and provide good counsel.

**Many: As we meet together, though separated by physical space, let us be encouraged and comforted.**

INVOCATION (unison)

**Our hearts exalt in you, O God. Our deepest hungers are satisfied as you give counsel and instruct our hearts. Be known to us now, that our covenant with you may be strengthened. Show us the path of life, and grant us courage to walk in your ways. Amen**

**SONG OF PRAISE # Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen.

## WE INVITE FORWARD GOD’S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Jesus said, “Let the little ones come unto me.” Let’s sing “Jesus loves me”

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.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 13: 1-8, 24-37

<sup>1</sup>As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>"Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

<sup>24</sup>"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.

<sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

SERMON: Keep Awake!

HYMN #403 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ love and righteousness; I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are encouraged to give as God has blessed us, bringing our offerings, not to win God’s favor but to express our thanks, not out of habit but as a caring community that provokes one another to love and good deeds.

OFFERTORY MUSIC “Trust and Obey”

DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity to share. Here we dedicate our gifts, which are the fruits of your generosity and our efforts. In thanks for the perfect offering of Jesus Christ, we bring ourselves along with our gifts. Show us how to combine our efforts to build wholesome relationships, extend your church, and minister in your name throughout the world during this unusual time. Amen.**

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

HYMN #195 On A Hill

“On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain. So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.”

BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE “Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.”**

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MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation  
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST - Joan Virga  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Michelle Guerrin  
TECHNICAL WIZARD – Katie Cobban

## *IN OUR PRAYERS - March 29, 2020*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Thanks to everyone for your patience and for helping one another at this difficult time.  
Family Fun Night- gratitude to everyone who helped and who attended.

Wednesday presentations by Nancy Heywood, who presented on the Boston Massacre and the Meetinghouse stained glass windows. Both presentations were great!

Update: Alyssa Mulhern (friend of Diane Breeden) – She is doing great- Thank you for your prayers!

A wonderful celebration of life of Ken Gould at Pilgrim UCC!

Nico Immanuel Peters was born 2/16 and he is already attending church!

Wednesday program with Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson who brought Harriet Tubman to life for us!

Adult Faith Formation concluded its series reading Priorities. Such a profound experience for all!

Fody's and O'Shea's Dining for Dollars – thank you Fody's! thank you Carmel!

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING**

Joan Virga and her family who are grieving the death of her mother, Vima LeJeune.  
Sheryl Hall (sister of Wayne Hall) has died. Pray for her wife Chris, Wayne and Lisa and their family

CANCERS: Avis Hanson, Marjorie Palmer's cousin's wife; Jo Worthen's friend **Cindy** & her family continue to struggle with cancer, as well as the loss of her (Cindy's) sister and Cindy's father's recent diagnosis; from Nutfield Coop: Grace Theroux; Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, recurring leukemia; Joan (friend of Wendy Williams) liver cancer; Janice Paradzick; Alyssa Mulhern (friend of Diane Breeden), breast cancer.

Jo Worthen's friend Diane & family: dealing with a fatal disease of her daughter, Terri.

Diane Breeden and her family as they grieve the loss of Aunt Barbara McKeen, who was married to Diane's uncle Donald Wyman McKeen.

Nancy Murdock's friend Erin Hutchinson has some serious medical issues

Bonnie Hillsgrove, friend of Tim Beers

### **SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS**

Active Military; Aghadowey Rural Kinship; Southern NH Family Promise;

Andrea Cooper health & strength

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Tim Beers – Health & strength

Bob Dinan, father of Karen & Bob Wilson's friend Kristen Wilson, ongoing struggle with cancer

Brian Krantz and ALL of the Wildland Firefighters this fire season

Victims of floods and fires and violence; Refugees and their families

People of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community

Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors

Our Covenant Partner: Pastoral Counseling Services, Inc.