

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

April 26, 2020

Scripture: Peter Heals in Jerusalem

Current Events: Earth Day 2020



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 # 245 “The Day of Resurrection” vs. 2, 3

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal, in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin.
The whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in the grace of Jesus Christ in order to worship our God.

Many: Let us rejoice in God and give thanks to God's generosity.

One: God is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

Many: Let us lift our voices of celebration to our loving, compassionate God.

One: Come, any who hunger and any who thirst;

Many: Let us bring our prayers and our praise to be nourished and renewed.

INVOCATION (unison)

**We seek a Presence that shakes foundations and helps us build new ones.
We come with all our wounds, asking for healing. We come through the
shadowy clouds of our unbelief, seeking the brightness of your glory, O God.
Sustain us through these times of separation and isolation. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE Halle – halle – halle - lu- jah!

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: ACTS 3:1-10

¹One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

SERMON: "Filled with Wonder"

HYMN # # 543 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" vs. 1, 6

Joan to sing verse 1 to introduce it and then we join singing vs. 1, 6.

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the
cries of clan and race, above the noise of selfish
strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.

Till all shall learn compassion's might,
and follow where your feet have trod,
till glorious from your realm of light,
shall come the city of our God.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Christians sometimes bring peace in the midst of turmoil. At other times, we disturb the peace with our work for justice and our championing of the oppressed. As we pool the resources God has given us, we become a powerful influence for good. With so many of God's children in need of hope today, we trust that our offerings will make a difference even as they proclaim our faith. Let us give with joy.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY Masithi

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We dedicate our gifts to the service of Jesus Christ with joy and gladness. May the abused find solace and courage; may abusers be led to new awareness, sensitivity, and change; may prisoners know release from bondage; and may all humankind be led to acknowledge the saving grace of our loving God. To this end, we offer ourselves along with these gifts. Use us as ambassadors of your love. Amen.

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

HYMN # 252 "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" verses 1, 2

Savior Like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.

We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray

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
LAY READER – Joanne Worthen
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST - Joan Virga
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Michelle Guerrin

Visit our FaceBook page or our website for recent videos of services and moments of Christian Faith Formation and inspiration.

IN OUR PRAYERS - April 26, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Joy to see everyone at Wonder Wednesday Service!

Bible Wonder Tuesday night was enriching and enlightening!

Joan Virga says "Thank you for all the prayers and cards received due to the passing of my mother. It truly was a gift and helped greatly during this time. God Bless you all."

Update: Thank you for all your prayers for triplets Avery, Conner and Bradley. Two have made it through surgery and are home doing well. They are waiting until Bradley is stronger. Thank you from their family too. Lianne D

Gratitude to Doug Pawl (Melanie & Alan's son) for making ear protectors for hospital workers.

Zoom meetings are happening! Calls are happening! Connection is happening! Joy! So many people are adapting to this era of on-line existence! We are learning so much! Things are different but people are finding ways to connect!

The Ministry of Care Team is spreading so much happiness with their cards!

So many cases of people helping people!

Thanks to everyone for your patience and for helping one another at this difficult time.

Zoom attendance at fellowship events and CE family events! Community at work!!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Joan's sister, Vicki Hester (a nurse) has COVID, as does Vicki's husband.

Krzys family (neighbors of the Cobban's) Stan died Saturday of Covid19, and his wife Gloria tested positive.

Friend of Rachel Cobban, Pat Sullivan's mother (age 94) tested positive.

For people who are losing their livelihood due to this pandemic.

For health care professionals who are "on the front lines" of this war against covid-19

Trina Brand asks for prayers: The crew of the USS Roosevelt (aircraft carrier) where COVID-19 is spreading rapidly and our friend (the priest on board) is trying to give hope and peace, along with the USNS Comfort, now in NYC, where our friends on crew are trying to help the sick of that city.

For Lisa Hall, whose father passed away.

For the Smith and Martineau families on the tragic death of their wife, sister & mother.

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; Bob Dinan (friend of the Wilson's)

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

Parkland Hospital Personnel, All Nurses and Doctors, Hospice workers and employees
of Nursing Homes and Extended care facilities; First Responders; National Guard
Active Military; Aghadowey Rural Kinship; Southern NH Family Promise

Andrea Cooper health & strength

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Tim Beers – Health & strength

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.

