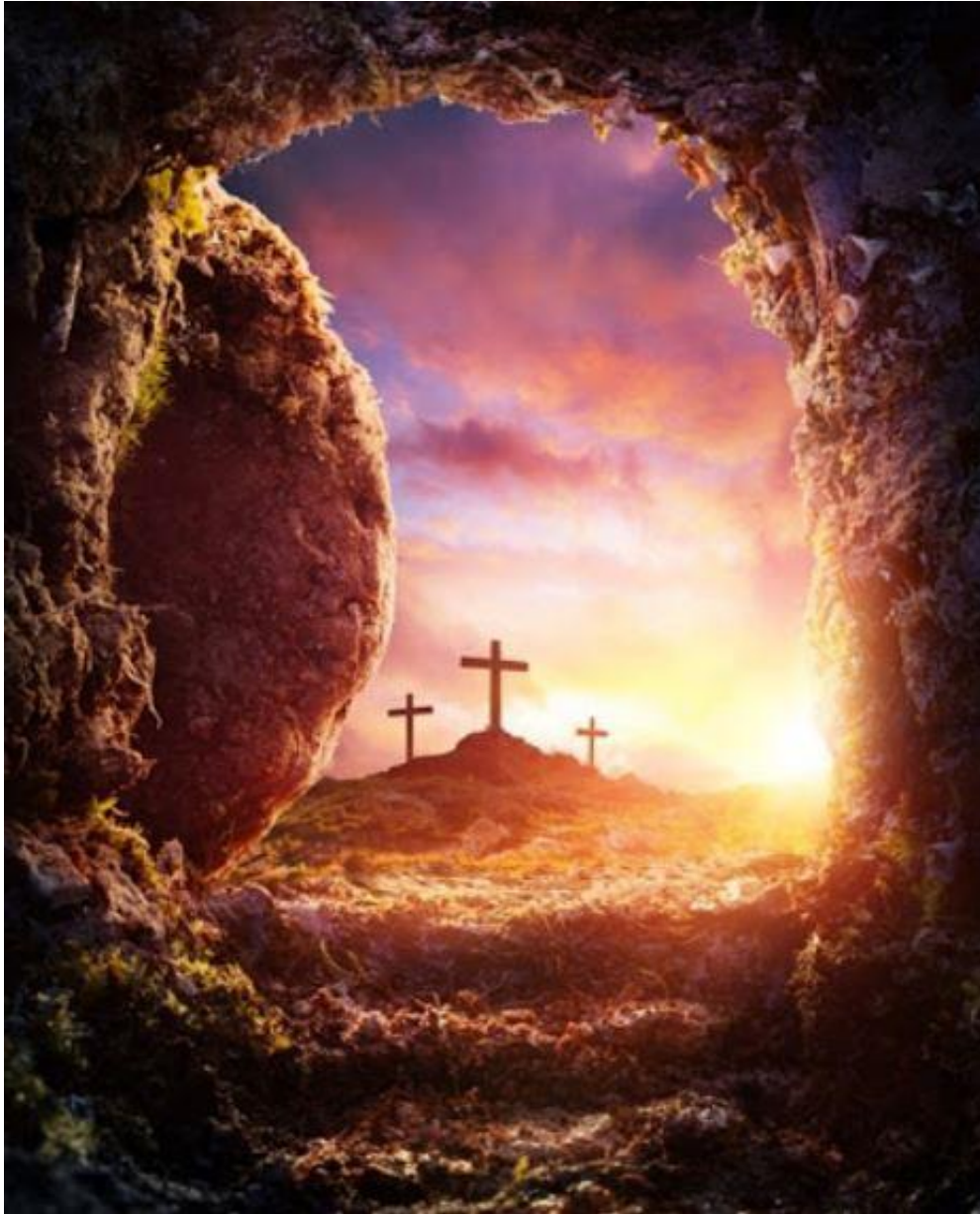


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

April 12, 2020 Easter Sunday



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

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: #233 *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!
Let the Victor’s people sing, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather for worship in awe and wonder.
Many: God has answered our prayers with salvation.
One: Let us sing songs of praise, for God is good.
Many: The tomb is empty; death will not be the last word.
Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.
One: Let us open our hearts and minds to the risen Christ.
Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***HYMN:** #245 *“The Day of Resurrection”*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over the hymns of victory.
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.

INVOCATION

God of abundant life, we greet the dawning brightness of this special day with hopes renewed. We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah

WE ADDRESS GOD’S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN’S TIME *“Jesus Loves Me”*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

"Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word
 Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
 Like the first dewfall on the first grass
 Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
 Sprung in completeness where His feet pass
Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." 8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

EASTER REFLECTION

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When we have seen the Christ, our worldview changes. When we have encountered the living water of Jesus, we can no longer pursue the ways of selfishness. And when we realize how much we have received from a loving God our gratitude must pour forth in eagerness so that others may learn what we know to be true.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780

(Masithi) Amen, siyakudumisa (Masithi); Amen, siyakudumisa (Masithi)
Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo; Amen, siyakudumisa. (Sing amen)
Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing Amen) (2x)
Amen, amen, Amen, amen; Amen, we praise your name, O God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Heavenly Creator, we consecrate all of the gifts that have been brought forth to share. May the message of hope spread through the streets and across the lands, and may they begin within the boundaries of our hearing and burst out for all the world to see. As forgiven and forgiving people, may we look for even more clever ways to make our world a more loving place in these days of social distancing. Amen.

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

HYMN: #242 *"The Strife Is O'er"*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun, Alleluia!
The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has dispersed;
Let shouts of holy joy outburst, Alleluia Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST

Members of the Congregation
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
Joan Virga

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

IN OUR PRAYERS - April 12, 2020

PRAYERS OF 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!

Gratitude to spouses of Pastor Deborah and Joan (Liz and Joe) –for helping Thursday!

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

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.

To the family of Marge Allen; our prayers of comfort and support

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; 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

Nurses, Doctors, 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.



Easter Flowers



Easter Flowers add to the beauty of the season.

In celebration of Family and First Parish Church, from Margie Ives

In celebration of our Parents, from Lianne & Dee Deranian

In celebration of Family & Friends, from Sue & Paul Lindemann

In memory of the Berry & Gebo Families, from Nancy Berry

In memory of my Parents, from Diana Kittery

In celebration of First Parish Church's Ministry & gratitude for Michael,
from Pat & Dick Plouff

In memory of Samuel Gray, from Cynthia Gray

In memory of Bill & Bess Moore, from Deanna Butler

In memory of Moe LaDuke, loving husband, father, son and brother. There is
not a day that goes by that you are not missed, from Anne Englehardt

In memory of Leon Berry, beloved husband, father, grandfather,
from Nancy, Cathy & Shanna

In celebration of the life of Donald Noel, from Cathy, Shanna,
Melanie, River, Emery & Colleen

In memory of my Moms, from Jo Worthen

In celebration of loved ones, from the Cobban Clan

In memory of Shirley Young & Mary Sullivan, from Laura Sullivan

In memory of Charles & Lilah Roof and William & June Ermer,
from Liz Greenberg & Pastor Deborah

In celebration of Family, Friends and Spring, from The Guerrin Family



Thank you for donating Easter Flowers today!