

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

**February 23, 2020**



## **Transfiguration**

**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 He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit)

One: Rise up in heart and mind to bless God's holy name.

**Many: We are here to praise God in response to God's steadfast love.**

One: God welcomes you and offers renewal.

**Many: God is merciful, gracious, and slow to anger.**

One: God calls you to use your gifts for the sake of justice.

**Many: God raises us up as followers of Jesus.**

**\*INVOCATION: Living God, we gather to feed the integration of faith and deed, trust and discipleship. This is what will make us authentic witnesses to your steadfast love. Make yourself known to us so we will experience your Presence inside us and in all the gaps in between. Amen.**

**\*SONG OF PRAISE: Refrain from #610: Glory, Glory Hallelujah (3X): God's truth is marching on.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

## **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

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 8:27-38; 9:1-8

8 <sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

<sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

9 <sup>1</sup> And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

SERMON: Who do YOU say that I am?

HYMN #454 Lord, I want to Be a Christian

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Justice for the oppressed, good news for sinners, strength for life's journey: these are the gifts God offers us and bids us to pass on. Our mission begins in reaching out to one another and extends to encompass the whole world in love and care. What is returned to God in these

moments represents our commitment to that mission. The morning offering will now be received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC    Amazing Grace

\*DOXOLOGY “This Little Light of Mine”

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**As ministers of your new covenant, O God, we bring these offerings. Help us to soar with the eagles as we give of ourselves. Bless the work of our hands as we reach out in your name. May all your people feast at the banquet table of your love. We want to help make that possible through these gifts. Amen**

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

\*HYMN #593 Lift Every Voice and Sing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation

DEACON - Diane Breeden, Jack Martin

LAY READER - Diane Breeden

USHERS - Stanley & Holly Gorgol, Tom Cooper, Michael Bryan

GREETER - Jean Brodeur

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER -The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST-Joan Virga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Michelle Guerrin

## **General Announcements February 23, 2020**

**Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services** - Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. We begin the six weeks of Lent. There will be food fellowship at 6:00, followed by a service or program at 7:00. On Ash Wednesday you will be the guests of the Board of Deacons. Starting March 4, we will observe a "traditional pot luck". No sign-ups. Everyone pitches in. Please come early to help set up so that we may eat at 6:00. Bring something to be shared.

Adult faith formation: our LAST class will be Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. (We canceled last week due to inclement weather.)

**Newsletter** - Please send your newsletter articles to Michelle by Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> - Thank you!

**Every year Horton Center** recruits hands on workers to open up camp for the season. It will be 5/15 - 5/17/20. Help if you can. Here is the link: <https://hortoncenter.org/camps/opening-work-days/>

**Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed** is ready for donations! Items accepted; Clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals. Please take a flyer in the lobby.

## **Mark your calendars!**

**Wednesday, February 26: 6:00 supper; 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service**, with communion and imposition of ashes.

**Dining for Dollars O'Shea's Caife & Tae Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup>** ~ 6am-5pm in Londonderry! 20% will be donated back to the church! No Flyer is required. Please just let the cashier know "First Parish"

**Kindness Rocks Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup>** ~ 10:00-2:00!  
Currier Hall- Leap into 2020 with Kindness!

**Dining for Dollars Fody's Tavern in Derry! Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** ~ 5:00-9:00pm. A flyer is available in the office and on the church website.

**Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>** in Currier – an evening with Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson, who will present a program on Harriet Tubman. Carolyn tells the story, she teaches us some songs and she shows us an example of a quilt with symbols that the enslaved peoples used to escape to the north.

**Ken Gould's Celebration of Life Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>** ~ 10:00  
at Pilgrim UCC in Brentwood.

**Family Fun Night March 13<sup>th</sup>** ~ 5:30-7:30 All ages welcome to enjoy family, fun and friends! Dinner will be provided 5:30-6:30ish- you are welcome to arrive and leave your convenience!

**Easter Flowers** forms are available in the lobby and online. The deadline to order is **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Vendor Bingo is returning**~ mark your calendar for Friday **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** 5:30-8:30. Come join a fun night of free bingo and win a prize from a vendor. We will be playing 10 rounds of bingo at no cost to you and the winner of each round will receive a prize generously donated by our Vendors. \* Raffle Baskets! \* Vendors will be set up for shopping in between rounds!\* Food and beverages will be available for purchase!

Purchase or reload your  gift cards after church. A percentage of the dollars that you **already** spend at Hannafords can help the church. Checks can also be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!

## **First Parish Congregational Church IN OUR PRAYERS – February 23, 2020**

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Prepared to Serve

Jo Worthen's sister Barb is cancer free!

Mark Pingree and Jo Worthen both had successful procedures for heart issues this week.

Wednesday evening worship service was filled with joy and gratitude.

Welcome back Michael Bryan! Continued prayers of healing.

Worship on February 9 with Peggo Horstmann Hodes was such a blessing!

Andy Mack Sr. – who made a generous financial gift to rehab project!

Spaghetti Supper & Youth assistance!

Thank you to our Paper Angels!!

Annual Meeting was a wonderful success!

20 folks at Adult Faith Formation – we are looking at Priorities!

Planning a trip to Aghadowey in July!

Productive, informative and cooperative Council meeting

KIT: listening to the narrow escape of Pastor Deborah's father during WWII was awe-inspiring

Time spent with families

Kindness Rocks – with gratitude to Christine Lehoullier, our kindness ambassador

## **PRAYERS OF HEALTH and HEALING**

UPDATE: A member of the Nutfield Coop school family: Grace Theroux, 2, and her family for complete healing of the leukemia and strength and comfort for the family during this difficult time. Discharged from Children's Hospital last Friday and started home therapy on Tuesday!

Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, being treated for recurring leukemia.

Bonnie Hillsgosdge, friend of Tim Beers

For the family of Constance (Connie) Dick, who passed away in September.

Jo Worthen's friend Cindy continues to struggle with cancer.

Alyssa Mulhern (friend of Diane Breeden) and her family, diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer

Melanie Pawl's healing after foot surgery

Michael Bryan recovering at home. Cards can be sent to 16  
Holton Street, Woburn, MA 01801

Vintage Grace is undergoing financial challenges

Joan (friend of Wendy Williams) diagnosis and treatment for  
liver cancer

Janice Paradzick - reoccurrence of cancer

Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, being treated for  
recurring leukemia.

Marge Palmer's granddaughter, Rebecca, after her recent  
surgery.

Selma Gould and Ken's children who are grieving the death of  
Ken on November 23.

## **SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS**

Active Military

Andrea Cooper health & strength

Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Southern NH Family Promise

Avis Hanson, Marjorie Palmer's cousin's wife, battling, and in  
treatment for, cancer

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.