

First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road
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May 10, 2020
Happy Mother's Day



Church at Corinth

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 Gather Us In (vs 1,2)

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken. Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly. Give us the courage to enter the song

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are here to receive God's message.

Many: Our hearts are open to the Word we will hear.

One: Listen, all who are near and all who are far away;

Many: God is calling us as servants and as saints.

One: Let us trust that God will strengthen us for our tasks.

Many: We are ready to be led into new responsibilities.

INVOCATION (unison)

God, we come from unusual situations and many moments of confusion.

Then, when you call us together, we are challenged to be and to do more than we have already faced. (Moment of silence)

We have spent our strength. How can we do more? Will you renew us here?
(Moment of silence)

We feel that we have labored already. Will you help us make sense out of this chaos? (Moment of silence)

Come, because we need your saving Presence.

Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

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 18: 1-4

¹After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. ⁴Every Sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

I CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

SERMON: United in the Same Purpose

HYMN #379 Come, We Who Love God's Name (vs 1, 3, 5)

Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;
Together God's great love proclaim and thus surround the throne.

God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glory sown;
Celestial fruits on earthly ground from faith and hope have grown.

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
We're traveling through Emmanuel's ground, to greater worlds on high.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Remembering how we are getting by with shops and boutiques closed, we can see how we have been given much. Nothing can compare to God's wondrous deeds and thoughts toward us. We can only respond with trust and joy and generosity.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light, whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight. Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see, pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the saints in every age and time, we are grateful for the privilege of being numbered among them. Because of your generosity, we have not lacked for anything we really need. Grant now that our offerings bring blessings into loving service to You. Amen.

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

HYMN # 376 God, We Thank You for Our People (vs1, 4)

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still
eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.

Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth.
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on earth.

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

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

IN OUR PRAYERS - May 10, 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!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Glenn Allen is in CMC with COVID

Rev. Bob Sargent (a Cobban Family Friend) is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Joan's sister, Vicki Hester, she has COVID and is a nurse.

Krzys family (neighbors of the Cobbans) Stan died Saturday of Covid19, wife Gloria tested positive.

Friend of Rachel Cobban, Pat Sullivan's mother 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.

BE THE CHURCH  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Stay Home. Social Distance. Wash Your Hands.
Check on the Elderly. Live Stream Worship.
Give electronically. Support each other.
Love God. Flatten the curve. Pray Daily.
So we can all enjoy this life.

Content Credit: Julia Roberts, LCSW, Philadelphia, PA