

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

May 24, 2020



Death Swallowed in Life

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 #99 Abide With Me (vs 1, 3 & 4)

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the shadows deepen, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless O abide with me.

I need your presence every passing hour;
I need your grace to foil the tempter's power.
Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? where, grave, your victory:
I triumph still if you abide with me.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Holy, holy, holy; the whole earth is full of God's glory.

Many: Our hearts are filled with thanks, O God.

One: All people of the earth are called to praise God.

Many: The steadfast love of God surrounds us here.

One: May the people rejoice with the glory of God's Presence.

Many: And may our lives be channels for God's grace.

INVOCATION (unison)

O God, we yearn for your divine Presence and we ask that you open our hearts in awe and wonder. When we consider the vast universe of your creation, we are humbled by your attention to us. Your steadfast love and faithfulness amaze us. Send your gospel to teach us and to lead us in truth and justice. Grant us the courage to reach out in your name to act as your disciples. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE This is the Day vs. 2

This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.

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: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; 51-57

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON: "Life and Death – and in Between"

WE RESPOND WITH REMEMBRANCE AND PRAYER

HYMN #591 This is My Song

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace
for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands
are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams
on cloverleaf and pine; But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,
and skies are every where as blue as mine. O hear my song,
O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

READING THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO SERVED

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

When we are genuinely thankful for the steadfast love and faithfulness of God, we
are eager to share this bounty. When we truly discern the grace of God, we want
others to experience it, too. Christ calls us to reach out. Our offerings help to take
God's Word into the world.

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

We have heard Your voice, O God, and Your presence has moved us to respond.
Send us where you want us to go. Use the resources we dedicate here to empower
others to witness to your love and care. Fill our lives with thanksgiving. Fill our days
with purpose. We rededicate ourselves to work and worship that express our
profound gratitude for life and all its opportunities. Amen.

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

HYMN # 592 God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command (vs 1,4)

God of the ages, who with sure command
brought forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Refresh your people on life's toilsome way;
lead us from night to neverending day;
with truth and love guide us through error's maze,
and we shall give you glory laud, and praise.

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
TECH DEACON – Rachel Cobban
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 24, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Thank you to Debbie Gline Allen, Joan Virga, Rachel Cobban, Jack Martin, Joan Virga for Sunday Service participation.

Thank you to Jeff Slowick for fantastic advice about Internet tips!

Grateful for the Worship Service created by the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ

Thank you to Diana Sweeney and Joan Virga for hosting Wonder Wednesday!

Joy to Margie Ives & Lynn Mann for Hosting K.I.T.!

Joyful Update: Art Johnson, Avery (Barbara & Brian) William's boyfriend had been diagnosed with cancerous tumors on his stomach and last week he found out he is cancer free!

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.”

Joyful Update: Thank you for all your prayers for triplets Avery, Conner and Bradley. They 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.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Families of Scott True (son of Mel and Ginnie), Douglas Greetham (Diane Gordon’s father) and Glenn Allen, long-time faithful member of First Parish.

Sandra, friend of Jo Worthen, has a bacterial UTI.

Mike Dubisz (Jo Worthen’s brother) is recovering from surgery.

Bronte (Jo Worthen’s niece) is having a difficult labor and a huge kidney stone that will need surgery after the baby comes.

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

Joan’s sister, Vicki Hester, is improving in recovery from Covid19.

Krzys family (neighbors of Cobbans): Stan died of Covid19 and wife Gloria is positive.

Friend of Rachel Cobban, Pat Sullivan’s mother 94 tested positive for Covid19.

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

CANCERS: Avis Hanson, Marjorie Palmer’s cousin’s wife; 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)

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

Bonnie Hillsgrove, friend of Tim Beers

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.

Children's Bulletin

First Parish Congregational Church

May 24, 2020

Please gather the following (optional) items to help you worship today:

- Drawing paper
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Gather any craft supplies you can find around your house to construct a special gift for a neighbor during the sermon!
- You'll also find an additional coloring page with Paul's special take home message for today!

Words of Welcome

Go around the room and greet each person (and pet!) there.



Sing along! Abide With Me

Call to Worship

Read out loud the words in bold or draw a heart when you hear the word **love**

Song of Praise This is the Day vs. 2

This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day Jesus rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.

Time Especially for Children

Come in close and bring your listening ears



Scripture Reading

Draw a picture of what you hear in this Bible passage.

Sermon ~ “Life and Death - and in Between”

During this time, as you listen to the sermon, construct a project with the supplies you’ve collected ahead of time that represents new life and perhaps give it to a neighbor for National Good Neighbor Day that is TODAY! Perhaps a flower, a baby animal of some kind or anything that reminds you of spring!

Sing along! *This is My Song*

Sharing Joys and Concerns:

Do you have a Joy or Concern you’d like to share with the congregation?



Invitation to Generosity

Sing along! *God of the Ages, Who with Sure Comman*

Benediction

Bless each person in the room with you by saying, “May God bless you!” while placing your hand on their shoulder.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Share your artwork with everyone!

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For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

