

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
47 East Derry Road, Derry NH 03038
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

August 2, 2020



Communion 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.”*

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #403 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (vs 1, 2)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It is good to give thanks to God!

Many: God knows our troubles and remembers our need.

One: Seek God's help in the sanctuary.

Many: Our petitions are answered and our hearts' desires fulfilled.

One: Listen for the voice of God, speaking to us again.

Many: God responds when we call – and we will bear fruit for God!

INVOCATION (unison)

We turn to you, God of all worlds, knowing we can depend on you when earthly rulers stumble and fall, when other relationships are strained and broken, when we are faced with difficult challenges. It is good to sing your praises; it is good to declare your faithfulness; it is good to give thanks. It is when we do these things that we are reminded of the multitude of blessings you have blessed us with. Lead us in this time of worship. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Each of us has a mandate from God to give our best and bear fruit for God's realm. We who gather in God's house are called to be a faithful community in which all followers of Christ may be motivated by the love of Christ. Let us examine ourselves before our Creator.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all truth and justice, you examine our hearts, we pray. We see what is on the surface, but you discern beauty deep within. We measure importance by paychecks, but you find value among those we deem lowly and insignificant. You offer us the deep and profound joy of your realm. We forget your promises and turn to pursuits that separate us and destroy community. We seek forgiveness as we seek a fuller expression of You in our lives. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When we come with true penitence, we can win a victory over sin. Christ died for us, that we might no longer live only for ourselves. In Christ, we no longer regard others from a human point of view. We are a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come. We can live confidently, urged on by the love of Christ, to joyous, daring service.

SONG OF PRAISE Gloria Patri (Traditional)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end, Amen, Amen

WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN # 330 Let Us Break Bread Together (vs 1, 3)

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

OUR SACRED STORY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PEACE HYMN: Let there Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, we are family,
let me walk with my neighbor, in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION followed by 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.

SHARING the MEAL

As we celebrate Communion today, you will first be invited to take the bread – which you will HOLD. If you are with your family, please serve one another. Once everyone is served we will ALL take the bread at the same time. This act symbolizes that we are ONE BODY and that we are all one in the Spirit of Christ.

You will then be invited to take the cup of love which symbolizes the cup of wine that Jesus shared with his friends, saying “This is the cup of love poured out for you.” You are invited to prayerfully drink from the cup at your own pace, in your own time. This demonstrates that we are each individuals in God’s Presence - each one doing the best that he/she/they can to be the hands and feet of Christ on this earth.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Corinthians 5:1-7; 16-19 “Walk by Faith not Sight”

¹For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— ³if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

SERMON: “Faith Walking”

HYMN: “We Walk by Faith” (vs 1, 3)

We walk by faith, and not by sight; No gracious words we hear
Of him who spoke as none e’er spoke, but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side, Nor follow where he trod.
Yet in his promise we rejoice and cry “My Lord and God!”

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION: We give, not out of compulsion, but with joy. Whatever our age or circumstances, we have something to offer. Let us give thanks as we present these, our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God all above you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All that we have is Yours, O God. What we present for the church's use is not sacrifice. We are privileged to share good news in word and deed. May our common ministry be extended by the time and talents and treasure that we invest. Let all things become new as we give our best. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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

HYMN #407 How Firm a Foundation (vs. 1, 2)

How firm a foundation for you has been laid, By God in the Word,
in the sacrifice paid! What more can God say than to you has been said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled!

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, For I am your God,
I will still give you aid. I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
Upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **"Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go."** *Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708716.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation

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

LAY READER – Liz Greenberg

GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Sue Brown

GUEST MUSICIAN – Katlyn Leahy

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 - August 2, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Great Zoom conversation with 12 would-be travelers to Aghadowey with several of the Aghadowey Rural Kinship friends.

Spaghetti Supper- Serving many To-Go Dinners while working together and safely!

Diana Sweeney leading service while Pastor Deborah was on Study Leave!

Pastor Deborah's Study Leave – an enriching time for her, an investment for FPC.

Great stewardship of the Mission Board!

17 people attended the Labyrinth Walk this week!

All the work that Facilities Board is doing around the church!

Anne-Marie Merrill's parents celebrating 69 years of marriage!

Paul Lindemann's on-going help with our virtual worship.

Neighbors who love their neighbors by wearing masks and keeping distance!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

For the families of those who have died in our community: Families of: Nancy Williams (Brian Williams' mother: 8 Poplar Circle, Londonderry, 03053); Scott True (son of Mel and Ginnie), Douglas Greetham (Diane Gordon's father), Glenn Allen, long-time faithful member of First Parish, Eric Ellis (Firefighting friend of Brian Krantz).

For Comfort/Consolation:

John Fields, Ken William's cousin: his Granddaughter, Jocelyn Boston, passed away in February, his wife, Lorna, passed away in March and his son, Dana, passed away in May.

For Healing:

Rick (the father of Joanne Worthen's coworker Cindy) tested positive for Covid19, and struggling with an infection from a bypass heart operation.

Sandra is hospitalized & Frank is worried and can't visit. Joanne Worthen's aunt and father.

Alan Pawl, recovering from back surgery.

Verna Elwell, on the mend at rehab. Cards may be sent to 3 Hood Rd. #507 Derry Aunt Sandra (Joanne Worthen) hospitalized after heart attack also has pneumonia.

Trina & Terrance Brand's nephew Nathan and his family (wife, young daughter, parents, and sister) At 32, he has been diagnosed with glioblastoma (brain cancer) and has 6-24 months to live. We pray for comfort and peace.

Marcie Zingo is recovering from leg amputation (19R Juniper Rd, Derry)

John Barker, recovering in Michigan

For those with cancer: 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), Danny with stage 4 cancer, brother of Mary Jane (friend of Cobban family)

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

For the families of those who are hospitalized and are unable to visit them.

For teachers, staff, & students the uncertainty of going back to school.

For those who choose hate and those who choose violence.

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

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.

