

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

July 19, 2020



FORGIVENESS

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 # 303 Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing (vs. 1, 4)

Rejoice, give thanks and sing: your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faithful up to their eternal home.

We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet's sound, "Rejoice!"

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Open your arms and your souls to receive the covenant.

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

One: God welcomes you and offers renewal.

Many: God is merciful and gracious, and allows us 'to lie down in safety.

One: As followers of Jesus, God calls us to use our gifts for the sake of justice.

Many: For justice's sake, God equips us as stewards of the new covenant.

INVOCATION (unison):

Living God, we read your Word in the lives of people who lived long ago. And we read your Word today in the lives of people who embody your Spirit. All of us have the potential to become your letters to the world. This is, after all, why we gather: to find integration of faith and deed, trust and discipleship. If we are to be authentic witnesses to your steadfast love, make yourself known to us so that your presence can be seen in the world. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Discordant humankind, in this your concord find,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound;
may Jesus Christ be praised!

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:

2 Corinthians 2:1-10 (The Message Translation)

¹⁻² That's why I decided not to make another visit that could only be painful to both of us. If by merely showing up I would put you in an embarrassingly painful position, how would you then be free to cheer and refresh me?

³⁻⁴ That was my reason for writing a letter instead of coming—so I wouldn't have to spend a miserable time disappointing the very friends I had looked forward to cheering me up. I was convinced at the time I wrote it that what was best for me was also best for you. As it turned out, there was pain enough just in writing that letter, more tears than ink on the parchment. But I didn't write it to cause pain; I wrote it so you would know how much I care—oh, more than care—*love* you!

⁵⁻⁸ Now, regarding the one who started all this—the person in question who caused all this pain—I want you to know that I am not the one injured in this as much as, with a few exceptions, all of you. So I don't want to come down too hard. What the majority of you agreed to as punishment is punishment enough. Now is the time to forgive this man and help him back on his feet. If all you do is pour on the guilt, you could very well drown him in it. My counsel now is to pour on the love.

⁹⁻¹¹ The focus of my letter wasn't on punishing the offender but on getting you to take responsibility for the health of the church. So if you forgive him, I forgive him. Don't think I'm carrying around a list of personal grudges. The fact is that I'm joining in with *your* forgiveness, as Christ is with us, guiding us. After all, we don't want to unwittingly give Satan an opening for yet more mischief—we're not oblivious to his sly ways!

Matthew 18:21-22: Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"
Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

SERMON: "The Hinge of Forgiveness"

HYMN #553 (vs. 1, 2) There's a Balm in Gilead

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain. But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend, who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Our mission begins by reaching out to one another and extends into the world in love and compassion. What is returned to God in these moments represents our commitment to the mission of justice for the oppressed, good news for sinners, and strength for life's journey.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**

All heirs of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall, Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all, Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As ministers of your new covenant, O God, we bring these offerings. May they impart new life to the sisters and brothers we know and to many we will never meet. 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. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH REMEMBRANCE AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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

HYMN # 551 1, 4 "Pass Me Not

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.

Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief.
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.

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
ZOOM/FACEBOOK GREETERS- Brian Williams, Debbie Gline Allen
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 - July 19, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

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

Worthens are on the mend after Covid.

Labyrinth walk and Wonder Wednesday – venues of connection during this separation

Anne-Marie's gift of gardening!

Sue & Rick Metts recovering from COVID. They appreciate the prayers!

Joyful success of the 2020 financial needs toward getting back to the sanctuary!

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:

Alan Pawl, recovering from back surgery.

Verna Elwell, on the mend at CMC. 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 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.