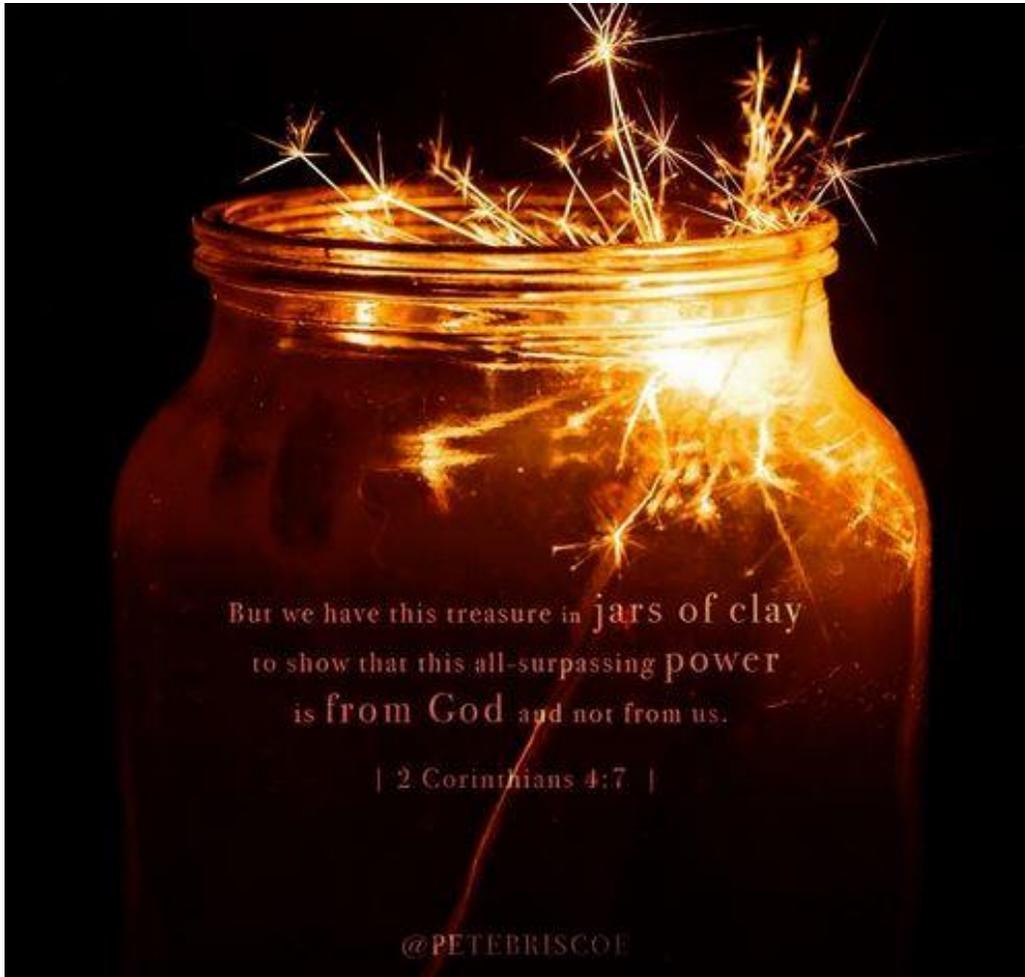


First Parish Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**July 26, 2020**



**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: Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Savior today!  
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,  
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Draw near to meditate and pray, to deepen our relationship with God.

**Many: Let us bring our songs of joy and thankfulness.**

One: We will blow trumpets, sound tambourines and play lyre and harp.

**Many: Our hearts and voices join in a chorus of praise.**

One: Let us give up our burdens to the One who cares about us.

**Many: Let us not conform to any earthly power to order to serve our God.**

INVOCATION (unison):

**Light of lights, shine into our darkness and grant knowledge of your glory in the face of Christ Jesus. As Paul says, we are afflicted but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair, struck down but not destroyed-for we are confident of your presence wherever we go. Feed our hungers, heal our brokenness, melt away our conflicts, that we may be one in the body of Christ to continue the work of Jesus in our world today. Amen**

SONG OF PRAISE When Morning Gilds the Skies

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this the eternal song, through all the ages long:  
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 4:1-18 Treasure in Clay Jars

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

<sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup>But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

MEDITATION: Treasure in Clay Jars

MEDITATION SONG: "Take Heart" by Matthew West - YouTube video

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

Stretch out your hands. They are gifts from God. With them, you have been able to do your work. Open your minds. With them, you have been able to solve problems. Rejoice that God has so richly blessed you and now offers you the opportunity to extend blessings to others. Let us give generously.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

### \*DOXOLOGY

Before the cross, with heaven's throng, we on our knees shall fall;  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Thank you, God, for the privilege of giving. We have received so much! Now it is our joy to share. You empower our earning and our use of the treasures we possess. Bless today's offering and tomorrow's spending with insight, compassion, and responsible stewardship. May our giving for others reflect your generosity toward us. Amen.**

## WE RESPOND WITH AND PRAYER

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

### HYMN # 4: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed.  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, All who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

### BLESSING

**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  
LAY READER – Beth Hunter  
ZOOM/FACEBOOK GREETERS- Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Lindemann  
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 26, 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:**

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 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 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.