

First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
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**July 5, 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 #407 How Firm a Foundation (vs. 1,2,4)

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

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all sufficient shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed  
your soul to make pure just as gold is refined.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us gather our hearts to rejoice in God's mercies and ever-present love.

**Many: Let us proclaim the good news of our relationship with God.**

One: By God's grace we are forgiven, by God's love, we are no longer strangers.

**Many: The Holy Spirit has called us from every direction to worship God!**

## INVOCATION (unison)

**Make your presence known to us, O God, for the foundations of our lives have been shaken. We grieve the sickness and the violence. We are saddened by separation and fear. Draw us to yourself, gracious God, that we may experience your peace among us. Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION:

The darkness of division and criticism runs rampant in our world. Let us examine ourselves before God.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, We, who have been called to know your light, don't always let it shine through the fog of the world. We react in fear rather than respond in love. Too often we lose our patience and lash out at ignorance. We want to be your people and live by your guidance. Our spirits are willing but our flesh is weak. Remake us, God, according to love's purpose. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be still and trust that God has heard our prayers. Refrain from anger and forsake greed. Open yourselves instead to the grace, mercy and peace God offers. Great is the faithfulness of our God.

## SONG OF PRAISE When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare; may Jesus Christ be praised!

## **WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## COMMUNION HYMN #332 As We Gather at Your Table (vs. 1,2,)

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

## 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

### SCRIPTURE: The Book of Job, The Message Translation, Chapter 42:1-6

Job answered God:

“I’m convinced: You can do anything and everything.  
Nothing and no one can upset your plans.  
You asked, ‘Who is this muddying the water,

ignorantly confusing the issue, second-guessing my purposes?'  
I admit it. I was the one. I babbled on about things far beyond me,  
made small talk about wonders way over my head.  
You told me, 'Listen, and let me do the talking.

Let me ask the questions. *You* give the answers.'  
I admit I once lived by rumors of you;  
now I have it all firsthand—from my own eyes and ears!  
I'm sorry—forgive me. I'll never do that again, I promise!  
I'll never again live on crusts of hearsay, crumbs of rumor."

**SERMON:** "Crusts of Hearsay and Crumbs of Rumor"

HYMN #393 (vs. 1,3) Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the sharing of a common life is like to that above.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION

From generation to generation, we tell the story of the people of Israel long ago, held captive and threatened by Pharaoh. Yet God blessed them with an abundance of children, including the great Moses who would one day lead them to freedom. First, however, two nameless women worked courageously with God to protect those babies from Pharaoh's command. God provides in every age, in every generation, and in our own day we give back a portion of what God has given us so that we might work with God through the ministry of this church. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

#### OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

All hail the power of Jesus name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Christ servant of all. Attend the Savior's sovereign claim,  
and crown Christ servant of all.

##### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We are grateful to you, O God, for the faith we have inherited. We give thanks for the courage and faithfulness of ancestors who suffered for the gospel that we might know your love. May we match their generosity, seeking above all else to know your will and take action. To that end, we dedicate our offerings of time, talent and treasure. Amen.

### **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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

HYMN #594 How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies (vs. 1, 2, 3)

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;  
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plains.  
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,  
and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons.  
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.  
America! America! God grant that we may be  
a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,  
the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.  
America! America! God grant that we may be  
a nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation  
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof  
LAY READER – Liz Greenberg  
GREETERS – Sue Lindemann, 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 5, 2020***

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Bible Wonder 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!  
Thank God for all of the peaceful racial justice demonstrations and changes!  
Outstanding spirit of cooperation as demonstrated by a one hour Council meeting!  
Joyful success of the 2020 financial needs toward getting back to the sanctuary!  
Paul Lindemann's help with our virtual worship  
Neighbors who love their neighbors by wearing masks and keeping distance!  
Technology that allows connection in this era of physical separation!  
Spaghetti Supper Angels serving our community in spite of a pandemic!  
Grateful for the Worship Service created by the Council of Conference Ministers of the  
United Church of Christ  
Update: Bronte (Jo Worthen's niece) had her baby!

## **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); Rev. Bob Sargent (a Cobban Family Friend), Scott True (son of Mel and Ginnie), Douglas Greetham (Diane Gordon's father), Glenn Allen, long-time faithful member of First Parish, Pam (neighbor of Rachel Cobban) and Eric Ellis (Firefighting friend of Brian Krantz).

**For the families of two black men found hanging:** Robert Fuller, Malcolm Harsch  
**For Healing:**

Joanne Worthen tested positive for Covid19 on 7/1; for Jon who is recovering.

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, diagnosed with glioblastoma (brain cancer) and has 6-24 months to live. They will need much comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Marcie Zingo, recovering from leg amputation on Monday. 19R Juniper Rd, Derry

John Barker, recovering in Michigan

Pat Crowell had knee replacement two weeks ago and is recovering

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

**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 (Cobban family friend)

## **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.