

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

August 9, 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 # 423 Great is Thy Faithfulness (Vs 1, 2)

Vs 1: Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator.
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not,
all of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain: Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed your hand has
provided, great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Vs 2: Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above.
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (Refrain)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.

Many: We come together as a congregation of believers giving thanks.

One: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

Many: We can count on God's compassion and faithfulness.

One: Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.

Many: Let us call on our awesome God to empower our worship.

INVOCATION (unison):

God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful discernment. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. Amen.

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 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 8:1-15 (about Generosity)

¹We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. ⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— ¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

John 13:34-35: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

SERMON: “A Question of Fair Balance”

HYMN # 488 Be Still My Soul (vs. 1, 2)

Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;

Leave to your God to order and provide; in every change God faith full will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: for God will undertake to guide in future days as in the past.

Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be clear at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

An important way to give thanks to God is through sharing the bounty we have been honored to receive. We can never do enough to earn God's generous blessings. We can only express our gratitude by passing on our gifts. It is a privilege to be able to give.

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. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

By giving away some of the wealth we hold so tightly, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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

HYMN # 1 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (vs. 1, 2)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious,
your great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might; Your justice like mountains high soaring above, your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

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 - August 9, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Work is under way to install sinks downstairs for Nutfield and our classrooms.
San Diego County Point Loma high school honors local Fire rescue First Responders.
Thanks to Jack and Beth who helped in the office this week (Michelle's vacation)
Grateful that Michelle and Christine got some much needed time away.
New Zealand beat Covid19 through self-isolation and good leadership.
Many thanks from Christine & Michelle for the gracious and generous bonus!
Spaghetti Supper- Served 138 To GO
Great Zoom conversation with 12 would-be travelers to Aghadowey with several of the
Aghadowey Rural Kinship friends.
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: Jo Worthen's Aunt Sandra; 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.
Alan Pawl, recovering from back surgery.

Verna Elwell, on the mend at rehab. Cards may be sent to 3 Hood Rd. #507 Derry
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: Jay, Marjorie Palmer's friend, a 41-yr old father of 3 young
children who has been recently diagnosed with multiple cancers and given possibly a
year to live. 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.