

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

September 13, 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 #28 For the Beauty of the Earth vs. 1,3, 4

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies.
For the love which from our birth over and around lies.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child.
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for the world where no exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One We gather to give thanks with our whole hearts.

Many: Let us rejoice in God's love and faithfulness.

One: Our Creator increases our strength of soul.

Many: We pour out our thanks in songs of praise.

INVOCATION:

Our souls wait for you, O God. Our ears are attentive to your Word. We hope for a clear understanding of your will for us. Let this time of meeting draw us together in unity, with a sense of direction and purpose for our church and our individual lives. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

God does not forsake us, but we often choose other directions. We choose less healthy paths, turning to entertainers, politicians, and financial wizards as our hope. In worship, we are drawn back to our primary relationship with God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess, O God, that we make decisions without considering your larger purposes. Our own convenience and desires are more important to us than your commands. We go our own way and then blame others for our mistakes. We hide from you rather than admitting our needs. O God, we want to face our misdirection and find forgiveness. Help us! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The One who raised Jesus from the dead offers us new life today. Our sins are forgiven. Our lives are cleansed. Our inner nature is being renewed. God does not forsake us. Blessed be.

SONG OF PRAISE *Gloria*

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia

WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Christian Education Director, Christine Lehoullier and a Back to School Blessing Elementary Students & Teachers:

Bless my paper and my pen. Guide my spirit deep within.
Help me think and help me play This whole school year, day by day.

**All: Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!**

Middle School (Jr. High) students & Teachers:

As I move from class to class Guide my footsteps; clear my path.
Keep my tongue to speak your words. Let your will for me be heard.

**All: Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!**

High School Students & Teachers:

In every subject high or low, May God's excellence be shown!
Keep me strong to reach the prize To grow in grace, becoming wise.

**All: Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!**

College Students & Instructors:

Whether far from home or near May I hold God's precepts dear.
To do my best at every task; For this blessing, I do ask.

**All: Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!**

Non-Traditional and Graduate Adult Students and Instructors:

Help my family be a part As I lift my mind and heart.
As I study, work, and pray, Be with them throughout the day.

**All: Of whom much is given, much is required.
May learning be your greatest desire!**

*About the Author: The Rev. Marilyn E. Thornton is Lead Editor of African American Resources for Abingdon Press and Director of the Wesley Foundation on the campus of Fisk University.
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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN #330 Let Us Break Bread

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

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:15 - 23

SERMON: A Peek at the Garden

HYMN #12 I Sing the Mighty Power of God vs. 1, 3

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather you, O God, are present there.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We often confuse wants with needs, the more and more affluent we become.
Where is our thanksgiving to God in all this? And where is our commitment to love
God and love neighbor as ourselves? Let us give in proportion to our faith.

OFFERTORY MUSIC CHIMES

Featuring, Joan Virga, Debbie Gline Allen, Eileen Cox, Chris Cox, Faye Chary,
Paula Robinson, Jennifer Robinson, Jamie Robinson, Billy Carleton

***DOXOLOGY**

Masithi, Amen, siyakudumisa, Masithi
Amen, siyakudumisa, Masithi;
Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo, Amen, siyakudumisa.

Sing amen, Amen, we praise your name, O God, Sing Amen
Amen, we praise your name, O God. Sing Amen
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, we praise your name, O God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We bring ourselves and some of what we have accumulated to praise you
and do the work you call us to do. Thank you, God, for your faithfulness.
Fulfill your purpose for this church as you enlist our offerings and our lives.
Help us to do your will. Amen.**

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

HYMN #31 All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small.

All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings. **Refrain**

The purple headed mountains, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. **Refrain**

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. **Refrain**

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
GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Brian Wilson
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST - Joan Virga
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Michelle Guerrin
AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann

Visit our Facebook page or our website for recent videos of services and moments of Christian Faith Formation and inspiration.

IN OUR PRAYERS – September 13th, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Pastor Deborah and Liz had a wonderful week in Acadia, our version of Heaven on Earth. We are grateful for the gifted Members in Discernment who cover while Pastor Deborah is away. Grateful to Debbie Gline Allen for leading the service last week. Grateful to Shellie Aseltine – for leading worship service in August! Larry & Jane Krantz would like to express their sincere gratitude for the cards, letters, phone calls and prayers over the past 4 weeks. We are so blessed!! Diana Sweeney would like to share a huge joy and expression of gratitude for the staff, doctors, nurses at Parkland for their care of all of us during this extremely challenging time.

Verna Elwell is at home & on the mend. She thanks everyone for prayers & cards. Many thanks from Christine & Michelle for the gracious and generous bonus! Labyrinth finger walks and growing appreciation in this ancient spiritual practice. August Spaghetti Supper- Served many To GO dinners! Paul Lindemann's on-going help with our virtual worship.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

For the families of those who have died in our community: Family and friends of Joyce Smith who died 9/5/20. Joyce was a long time member of First Parish and also a member of Diaconate. The Deacon's closet in the Meetinghouse is named in her honor; family of Jack Kluk, who passed away last week; Alan Pawl and family on the loss of Alan's mother; families of: Jo Worthen's Aunt Sandra

For Courage and Strength:

Paula Robinson

For Healing:

Dick Crow: in CMC for heart. Prayers still needed.

Jane Krantz, still in Parkland. Prayers still needed.

Dillingham Family (friends of Diana Sweeney) who lost their home in Oregon and at the same time a joy that they and pets are all safe.

McKeil Family (friends of Diana Sweeney) for comfort and healing in the coming days due to a challenging diagnosis

Aaliyah & her newborn son, Jaxon, (granddaughter of Joanne Worthen's friend Sandra). He needs heart murmur surgery and new Mom can't go with him.

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 and then a fall.

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)

For those with cancer: Steph Lesko, friend of Pastor Deborah's daughters: 30-yr-old mother of a 1-yr old, diagnosed with advanced breast cancer that has spread to lymph nodes – prayers for Steph and her whole family; 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; as well as our friend Kennedy
Gondongwe and everyone in Zimbabwe, a country riddled with revolution and
pandemic.
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.