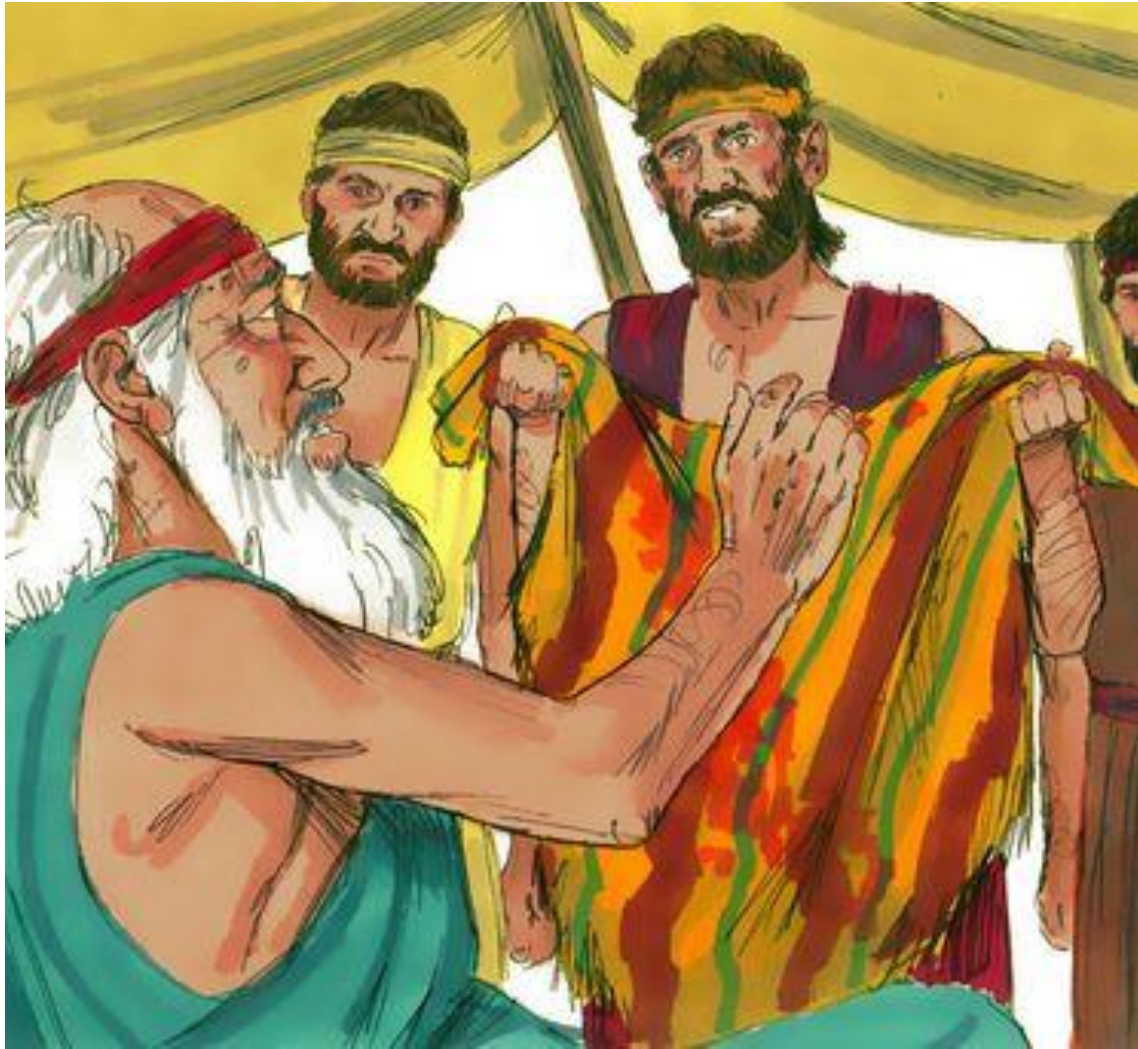


First Parish Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041/ 47 East Derry Road  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**September 27, 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 # 23 There's a Wideness is God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea,  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God 's heaven;  
There's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;  
And our lives would show thanksgiving for the good ness of our God.

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: It is time; it is time to set aside our fear -  
Many: and praise the God of our ancestors and the God of our children.  
One: The God who reaches out to us in the pit of our despair –  
Many: God, calls to us in the depths of our dreams.  
One: Do not be afraid – for the world that you see  
Many: is merely the undercoat of God's spectacular vision;  
One: Do not have fear – for the world around you  
Many: Contains more moments of wonder than you can even imagine.

## INVOCATION:

Saving God, our eyes see danger all around us. We see the treachery of our brothers and the uninformed views of people in power but You say "fear not". We hear the bitter voices of angry protestors and misguided policemen but You say "have no fear". God, deliver us from the surface noise and remind us once again that Your intention for us is one of ultimate goodness in You. As we worship You today, calm our hearts and replace any fears with rays of faith in Your will for us.

## SONG OF PRAISE *Gloria*

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia

## **WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

Jesus said, "Let the little ones come unto me." Let's sing "Jesus loves me"

## 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

### OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 37:3-8 (some highlights); 50:15-21

<sup>3</sup> Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. <sup>4</sup> But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

<sup>5</sup> Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. <sup>7</sup> There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf." <sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

(Some highlights...)

### 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

<sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

SERMON: "The Second Agreement: And Taking it Seriously"

HYMN # 46 Hope of the World 1, 3

Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,  
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict torn.  
Save us your people from consuming passion.  
From false pursuits through which our lives are worn.

Hope of the world, who by the cross did save us  
From death and sad despair, from sin and guilt.  
We render back the love your mercy gave us;  
Take back our lives and use them as our will.

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

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

Like Joseph, we have been entrusted with God's abundant blessings. God is the author of our dreams and we are stewards of all that God places in our hands. Offering a portion back to God's purpose is a sacred faith practice. We give not just to support this church's mission – although without our support our church could do nothing. Thanks be to God!

### **MOMENT FOR MISSION – a message from Community Caregivers**

### **\*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**

God, we cannot deceive you with the appearance of generosity. You know how we manage the wealth entrusted to our care.  
Help us to know the joy of sharing from the abundance you provide.  
Help us to trust when we feel we do not have enough. We give thanks that you enable us to be givers, not just receivers. May what we offer here provide a helpful ministry to many. Amen.

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

### **SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS**

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

### **HYMN #547 Amazing Grace 1,3,4**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

### **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  
LAY READER – Joanne Worthen  
ZOOM/FACEBOOK GREETERS- Jack Martin, Sue Brown.  
Atkinson Congregational Church Greeter Darlene Graczyk.  
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 27th, 2020*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Inaugural walking prayer circles around Meetinghouse yesterday!

September Spaghetti Supper- Served many To GO dinners!

Courtney and Andrew's wedding at the church next year – preparations have begun!

Jane Krantz has moved to Hanover Hill Health Care Center for rehab and therapy. The address is 700 Hanover St., Manchester NH 03104.

Outdoor service last week was lovely!

Michelle and Giovanni are so grateful for the care, support and cards.

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 the whole family during this extremely challenging time.

Many thanks from Christine & Michelle for the gracious and generous bonus!

Labyrinth finger walks and growing appreciation in this ancient spiritual practice.

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:

Joan Normington passed a month ago (per Wendy Williams)

Family and friends of Alexander Bosse Sr. who died. 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; pastors; teachers; leaders

**For Healing:**

Marnie is in the hospital undergoing tests, cards can be sent to her home address  
6 South Main Street Derry, NH 03038

John Stewart, long-time member and friend of First Parish. Cards would be welcome:  
1 Oak St.; Derry 03038

Lindsay Huber recovering at Brigham Health and Rehab in Newburyport but is facing multiple organ shut down. Cards of encouragement desperately needed.

Tana and her family (friends of Paula Robinson) who live in Oregon and are on watch to be evacuated.

Dick Crow, heart issues, is recovering at home. 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:** Kate, Jesse's friend is battling terminal 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 – had mastectomy - 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; Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, recurring leukemia; 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 Covid 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.