

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
47 East Derry Road, Derry NH 03038
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

October 11, 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.”*

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #383 Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

Come, let us join with faithful souls our song of faith to raise;
One family in heart are we, and one the God we praise.

Faithful are all who love the truth and perfect truth proclaim,
Who steadfast stand at God’s right hand and glorify God’s name.

O God of hosts, our faith renew and grant us, in your grace,
To join the songs sung by the saints in every time and place.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come away from the valleys of misplaced loyalty

Many: So many things in the world would lure us from God.

One: Come with open hearts, seeking God's Presence.

Many: God's steadfast love and enduring compassion endure.

One: We can rejoice that ours is a God of hope, of trust and of truth.

Many: Let us embrace the welcome of God.

INVOCATION

Gracious God, you have invited and welcomed us to this time of worship. When we come together in Spirit, we sense the Peace that you intend. All of the mysteries of life are in Your mind and we but catch glimpses when we seek You. We want to meet with You again and be reminded that You created us, You loved us into being and You support us on this journey of life. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE #236

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halleluja, hallelujah.

WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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: Exodus 32:1-14

¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ² Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to

the LORD.”⁶ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

SERMON: Betrayal, Repentance, Forgiveness: Repeat

HYMN #222 My Song Is Love Unknown

My son is love unknown, my Savior’s love to me,
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?

I sing my plain belief, one song my heart outpours;
Never was pain nor grief, never was love like yours.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could
Gladly spend; I all my days could gladly spend.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

God invites us to invest whenever possible in that which would build up rather than tear down. Through this church our financial stewardship is divided within the church and beyond. May all of our offerings be a testament to our faith that God leads us in abundant generosity.

OFFERTORY MUSIC Allegro and Menuetto from Mozart's Vienna Sonatina No. 4
Debbie Allen, soprano recorder & piano

*DOXOLOGY #780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God of all Creation, bless these gifts, we pray. May our offerings help to provide food to the hungry and clothing to the naked; may strangers be welcomed and prisoners be comforted; may the thirsty drink the water of eternal life and may the sick and infirmed know God's healing touch. All of this, through the gifts that we dedicate here today and beyond. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

HYMN #377 Forward Through the Ages

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine;
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,
Manifold in service, one the sure reward.
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,
Move we on together to the shining goal
Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

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
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MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

LAY READER – Sue Brown

GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Brian Williams

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 - October 11, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Everyone's help and everything coming together for a wonderful celebration of life for Marnie Willis.

Thank you, Pastor Deborah! We appreciate all that you do!

The wind took care of all the leaves under the Holy Spirit tree!!

Walking prayer circles around Meetinghouse!

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! And one more to go!!

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!!

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:

Family and friends of Marion "Marnie" Willis who died on September 30.

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:

Edie Cefaly (Pat Cefaly's) sister and her family: Edie is experiencing memory loss.

Mariaelena, Melanie & Alan Pawl's son Doug's friends mother, hospitalized with Covid, her condition has worsened and been placed on ventilator..

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, 77 High St, Newburyport, MA 01950 but is facing multiple organ shut down. Cards of encouragement desperately needed.

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

Aaliayah & her newborn son, Jaxon, (granddaughter of Joanne Worthen's friend Sandra). He is still in the hospital undergoing additional tests.

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.

For those with cancer: Verna Elwell has stage 1 lung cancer (along with some other health concerns) cards can be sent to: 3 Hood Rd, #507; Derry; 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.