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 25, 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 ##122 ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;

From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;

Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;

By your all sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Come to praise our Holy and timeless God!

**Many: Come! Come to worship our God of past, present and future!**

One: Come! Come to hear the wisdom, embrace the glory

and bask in the light of God!

**Many: We come to listen to the holy Word of God**

**and to hear God’s will for our lives.**

One: We come to feel the encompassing compassion of God

and breathe in God’s peace.

**Many: We come to unite under God’s loving countenance.**

INVOCATION

God of shepherds and kings, God of past and future, remind us of the promises of old and remind us that to you those promises are as present to us and they were to David. May we be transformed from our noble shepherd mindset to the very heart of beneficent royalty. May our Spirits be ignited once again with divine passion for a new Calling – one of courage and truth in these chaotic times. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE #236

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halleluja, hallelujah.

**WE SPEAK TO GOD’S YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

SINGING “Jesus Loves Me” and 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-17**

1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. 15 But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

17 In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

**SERMON**: “When Hope and Doubt Touch Every Hour”

HYMN # #350 ***Now in the Days of Youth***

Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice,

When hope and doubt touch every hour, when all thoughts find a voice,

We turn, O God, to you for guidance and for grace.

In all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.

Teach us to use our lives with purpose and with power

For visions of a better world and for decision’s hour;

To choose the way of life, reject the way of death,

Until the radiant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.

Teach us to love in truth, to give and to receive

With joyful and with open hearts, with all that we believe;

To seek another’s good, to honor what is right,

To let our will and our desire be held in holy light.

Teacher, Creator, God, enfold us in your arms;

Be with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.

All good and perfect gifts come to us from your hand.

O help us use them carefully and live by love’s command.

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

David’s awe of God was so profound that he wanted to offer God the gift of a home. The reality of God is that God’s home is in our hearts and God does neither warrant nor expect our gifts. Our motivation for giving therefore comes from a place of awestruck gratitude and appreciation. Let us give with openness and grace.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Bach’s Toccata played on the organ by Joan Virga

\*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

Generous God of all good gifts, we give not because we must. We give because we want to acknowledge in some small way the generosity that we receive from you. We ask your blessing upon these gifts that through them your children in our neighborhoods and around the world may know you that much more. With humble gratitude we pray. Amen.

**WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

HYMN #257 ***Alleluia, Gracious Jesus***

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received you when the forty days were o’er.

Shall our hearts forget your promise, “I am with you evermore.”

Alleluia! Christ eternal, nothing can disrupt your reign;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, heaven and earth are your domain.

Human life you fully entered, tending those we count the least,

Serving both as Priest and Victim, in the Eucharistic feast.

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 Members of the Congregation

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

LAY READER - Jo Worthen 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 25, 2020**

**PRAYERS OF JOY**

Siding on the connector is almost done!!

Jane Krantz is home!!! 102 Lake St, Salem 03079

Gratitude texting groups: three groups uphold one another in prayer and gratitude

Pastor Deborah’s grandson Harlan turned ONE year old on October 21!!!

Everyone’s help and everything coming together for a wonderful celebration of life

for Marnie Willis.

Thank you, Pastor Deborah! During this Pastor Appreciation month 2020 we want you to know that we appreciate all that you do!

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

Walking prayer circles around Meetinghouse! (Come and walk!!)

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

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 the 221,052 deaths in the US due to COVID 19.

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:** Medical Professionals of all levels and in all locations; 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:** Rosemary, friend of Marge Palmer, dying of Stage 4 lung cancer with congestive heart failure; 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.