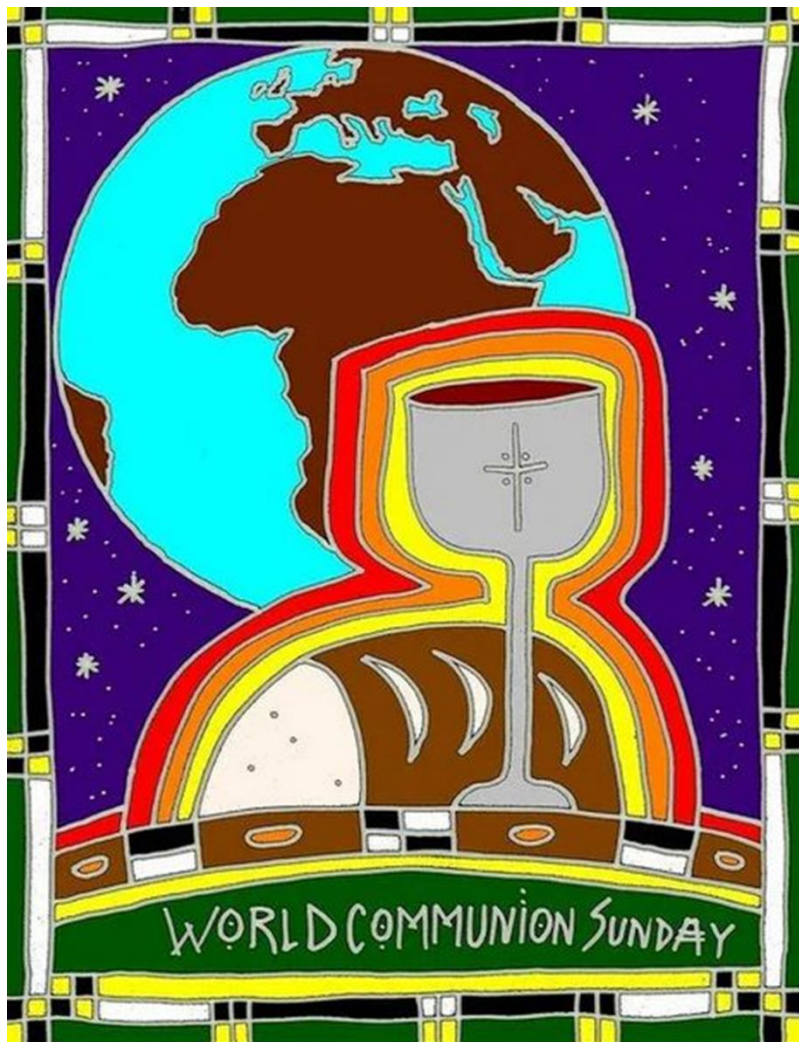


First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
47 East Derry Road, Derry NH 03038
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

October 4, 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 #55 Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky:
Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go,
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe;
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: "Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy" says the LORD.

Many: We gather around the world on this sacred day of unified Communion.

One: We bring our songs of joy and thankfulness to our Creator and Redeemer.

Many: And our hearts and voices join in a chorus of worldwide praise.

INVOCATION

Light of lights, shine into our days, granting knowledge of Your wonder in the face of Christ Jesus. In many ways, Paul's words are ours: "we are afflicted but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair, struck down but not destroyed-for we are confident of Your presence wherever we go." Reassure us once again of Your lavish generosity and abundant compassion. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We hold the treasures of heaven in clay jars. We become enslaved to habits that do build up the body of Christ. We become addicted to activities that consume our time and energies. Let us seek forgiveness and a better way.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, help us know a vision of what life could be if we truly followed Your way. Your gifts are often ignored or overlooked. We admit our short-sighted views. We let our appetites rule us. We squander the gift of time in frivolous pursuits. O God, find us here. We want the life you offer in Jesus Christ. Forgive and help us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God restores us to wholeness and grants us new opportunities for life. No matter how far we have strayed into the ways of darkness, we can begin again as free and forgiven children of God. Our burdens are lifted and our spirits are renewed, as God's love is rekindled within us and in all our relationships. Praise God.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN #332 As We Gather at Your Table

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred,
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

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

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹The LORD said to Moses: ²Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine. ³Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the LORD brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. ⁴Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. ⁵When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this observance in this month. ⁶Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival to the LORD. ⁷Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen in your possession, and no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory. ⁸You shall tell your child on that day, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

SERMON: "Chaos and Complications: Remember this Day"

HYMN #336 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face

Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon you lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God.
Here share the cup, the gracious gift of heaven;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION: Stretch out your hands. They are gifts from God. With them, you have been able to do your work. Open your minds. With them, you have been able to solve problems. Rejoice that God has so richly blessed you and now offers you the opportunity to extend blessings to others. Let us give generously.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*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. Multiply them the way you multiplied the loaves. May the ministries that are encouraged because of these gifts touch countless lives in Your name and to Your glory. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

HYMN #448 Take My Life and Let it Be

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.

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
LAY READER – Jack Martin
GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Brain 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 4, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Lovely in person vespers service on Wednesday
Inaugural walking prayer circles around Meetinghouse last Saturday! Welcome to
those walking all week!
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!
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.
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:

Mariaelena, Melanie & Alan Pawl's son Doug's friends mother, hospitalized with Covid.
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.

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

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

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: 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.

