

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

November 15, 2020

here am i.
send me.



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 # Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!
Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,
Though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,
You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts.

Many: Our hearts are filled with wonder and thanks.

One: The steadfast love of God surrounds us in our spirit-gathering.

Many: Let the very thresholds shake with the power of God's love.

One: God's purpose endures.

Many: God's grace is ours.

INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)

Oh, God, Your holy presence fills our hearts and surrounds us as we join our hearts in reverence to You. Your care and compassion for each of Your children inspires us to reach out, to care more, to step up and to be Your light in our world. Lead us, O Lord, in Your holy truth and love. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Praise our together singing Alleluia! (repeat twice)

WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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: Isaiah 6:1-8

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2 Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. 5 And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. 7 The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

SERMON: "Standing in the Threshold"

HYMN # 108 Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old (1, 4)

Isaiah the prophet has written of old
How God's new creation shall come.
Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
The wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the lamb
The wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

God, bring to fruition your will for the earth,
That no one shall hurt or destroy.
That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land
And your people shall go forth in joy, in joy,
Your people shall go forth in joy.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

When we are genuinely thankful for your steadfast love and faithfulness, we become inspired to share what God has given us. When we count the cost, and recognize all that Jesus gave up for our sake, we realize that we must share. Here we stand. Here we give.

OFFERTORY MUSIC – Here I Am, Lord - Chimes

***DOXOLOGY # 303 Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing**

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed deaths sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

We have heard Your voice, oh God. Your Presence in our lives has moved us to respond. Send us where You would have us go. Send our tithes and offerings where You would have them help Your children here on Earth. We dedicate our resources and we rededicate ourselves to Your service. In the name of love incarnate, Amen

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

HYMN # 594 How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies (vs. 1 and 2)

How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;
Our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
And more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons;
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be,
A sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

HYMN #592 God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command (vs 4)

Refresh your people on life's toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
With truth and love guide us through error's maze,
And we shall give you glory, laud, and praise.

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 – Jack Martin and Sue Lindemann

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 - November 15, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Walking prayer circles around Meetinghouse! We ended with a service of gratitude! Gratitude from Pastor Deborah for everyone who pitched in and helped in the office! The exterior of the connector is almost done!!

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.

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

Family and friends of Colleen Robbins, who died on 11.7.20 (relative of the Guerrin Family)

Alan & Melanie Pawl tested Positive for Covid

Family of Molly Rockwell, who died in a car accident. Chris Cox was her Scout Leader and friend of the Robinson Family.

Suzanne MacGibbon on the death of her 62-yr-old son Kevin who died 11.2.20

Family of Jane Krantz, who died on October 30; cards may be sent to 102 Lake St, Salem, NH 03079. Let's hold Larry and the family in prayer and refrain from calling.

Friends and family of Mariaelena (friend of Pawl family) who died from Covid 19.

Families of the 238,797 deaths in the US due to COVID 19.

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

For Courage and Strength: Everyone in this post-election USA; Teachers and all school personnel; Medical Professionals of all levels and in all locations; Paula Robinson; pastors; world and local leaders

For Healing:

Pat Crowell: knee surgery on 11.4.20; 29 St Andrew's Way, Londonderry, 03053

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

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 serious health issues. Cards of encouragement 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

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

Andrea Cooper health & strength

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

Parkland Hospital Personnel, and All Nurses and Doctors, Hospice workers and employees of Nursing Homes and Extended care facilities

First Responders; National Guard Active Military

Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Our Covenant Partner: Pastoral Counseling Services, Inc.

Southern NH Family Promise; Sonshine Soup Kitchen; Marion Gerrish; Upper Room

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Union Theological College in Zimbabwe, as well as our friend Kennedy Gondongwe

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