

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
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**January 24, 2021**



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We thank God for our unity in diversity: There are different kinds of gifts:

**Many: but the same Spirit.**

One: There are different kinds of service:

**Many: but the same Lord.**

One: There are different kinds of working:

**Many: but the same God.**

One: Praise to God, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer:

**Many: who works in us, with us and through us in all of these ways.**

## HYMN #172 Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult (vs. 1, 3, 5)

Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
Day by day that voice still calls us, saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship of the treasures we adore,  
From each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,  
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

## INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)

We ask your healing blessing, O God, in all of the broken pieces of our lives and our culture and our world. Heal us with your love and compel us to share your love wherever and however we are able. No act of love is too small to make a difference. Come, Holy Spirit, come to be with us this hour and beyond. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

## **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**

### **NEW TESTAMENT:** Luke 5: 1-11

<sup>1</sup> Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

**HYMN #173 You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore (vs. 1, 2)**

You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy  
But only asking for me to follow.

Refrain:

O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you I will seek other seas.

You know full well my possessions. Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
Just these my fish nets and will for working.

Repeat refrain

**SERMON:** "If you say so, Jesus"

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

**OFFERTORY INVITATION:** (Lay Reader)

God never holds back God's steadfast love and faithfulness. God's generosity is beyond our ability to calculate. It is in genuine gratitude for all that we have received that we are called to share our abundance with others.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (Pastor Deborah)

We hear your call to generosity, Divine Love. We respond even as we rededicate ourselves to your work in our world. We ask you to multiply our efforts today that they may contribute to making your Presence be made known. Amen.

### **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS**

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

HYMN #493      O Jesus, I Have Promised (vs. 1, 3)  
O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:  
I shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
That where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend!

### **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 – Katie Cobban  
GREETERS – Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Brown  
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 - JANUARY 24, 2021***

#### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Peaceful transition of power in Washington  
Very productive Council meeting; grateful for lay leaders; grateful for people who pledge!  
"Unbinding the Gospel" conversations were rich and rewarding.  
Starting "Four Agreements" will be a pleasure!  
Thank you to the Paper Angels!  
Gratitude for our Irish Friends who worship with us every week!  
Gratitude for our friends in Zimbabwe!  
Gratitude for member in Georgia and Laconia and other faraway places!  
Gratitude for the people who put themselves in harm's way for our country's safety.  
Congratulations to the Pingree family: Welcome to Rory Jean, born January 4!  
Congratulations to Kayla and Christopher, and to Grandma Cindy and Grandpa Mark!  
Happy New Year! Happy Epiphany!

Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe is recuperating nicely from Covid.  
Successful COVID-19 Vaccine being distributed.  
Family Promise is an amazing mission and resource to our community! Pastor Deborah's trunk was FULL! Thank you to everyone who gave.  
Drive-in Christmas Eve was wonderful!  
Paul Lindemann's work on the prerecorded Christmas Eve service.  
Grateful for Spaghetti Supper Angels  
Progress on the connector and elevator!  
Mission giving does so much good!  
So many people participated in the Angel Tree Project. Santa is alive and well!  
Our first "drive-in" church was a lot of fun! Thank you everyone who made it possible!  
Council is grateful for all of the positive things that are happening despite Covid!  
Gratitude texting groups: three groups uphold one another in prayer and gratitude  
Labyrinth finger walks and growing appreciation in this ancient spiritual practice.

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

Prayers for Eileen Cox and family: Eileen's brother Jake (in Florida) died 1.18.21; Trudie Bergeron, whose brother died; for the family and friends of Avis Hanson, who died recently (the wife of Marge Palmer's cousin); Rosemary, friend of Marge Palmer, died 11.28.20; Family and friends of Colleen Robbins, who died on 11.7.20 (relative of the Guerrin Family); 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; Families of the over 394,000 deaths in the US due to COVID 19.

### **PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING**

Jaime and Jennifer Robinson recuperating from Covid  
Anne Engelhardt and her family  
Wendy William's health concerns.  
Kathleen McFadden (friend of Trudie Bergeron) recently diagnosed with cancer on her lung will have surgery after Thanksgiving.  
Beth and her daughter Allison - both have Covid - friends of Nancy Murdock  
Teachers and all school personnel; Medical Professionals of all levels and in all locations; pastors; world and local leaders  
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  
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

**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; 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. 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**

Law Enforcement and other protectors of our safety and democracy; especially Active National Guard Military; First Responders;  
Family Promise in their new expanded facility  
Everyone in Zimbabwe, a country riddled with revolution and pandemic  
Tom and 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 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  
Aghadowey Rural Kinship – all of our friends in Northern Ireland  
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  
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

