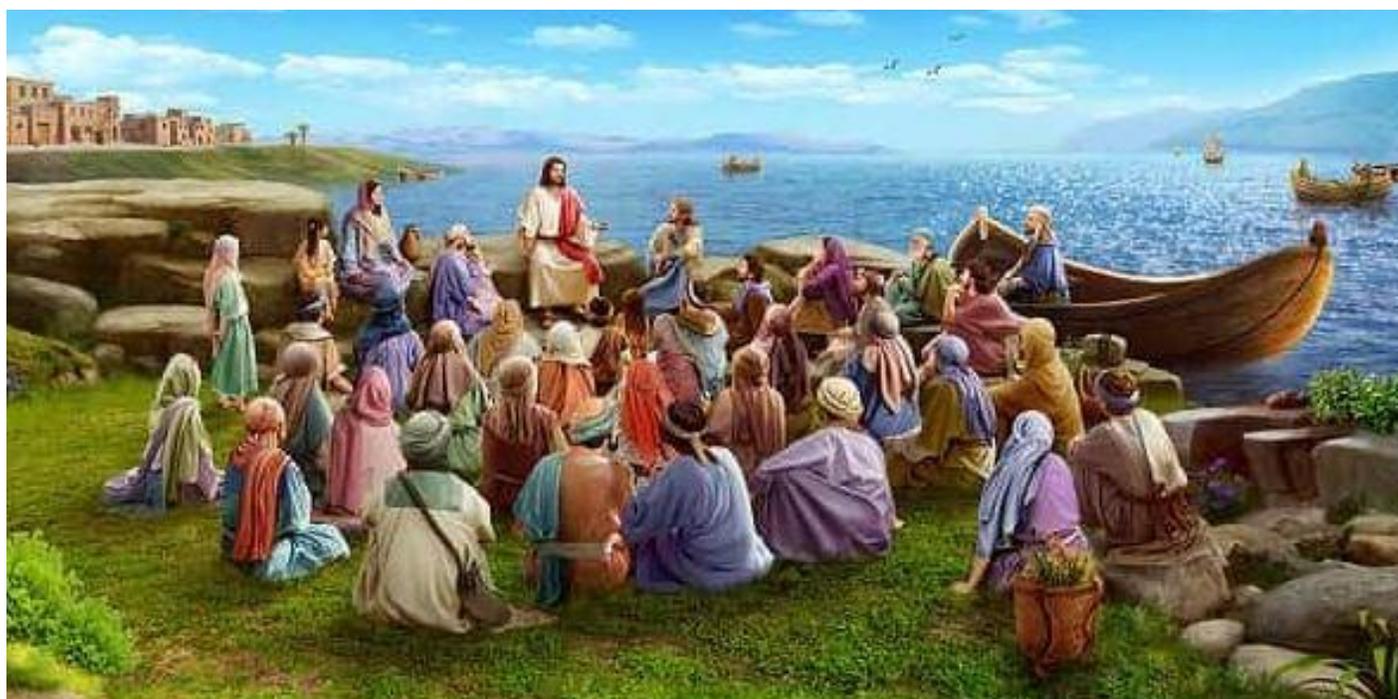


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**January 5, 2020**



Jesus' Ministry Begun

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."*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

# WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN #434 All Beautiful the March of Days

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.

**Many: God's righteousness endures forever.**

One: We come together as a congregation of believers.

**Many: Let us give thanks to God with whole hearts.**

\*INVOCATION (unison)

**God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful listening. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best, in your service. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are called to confession and invited to claim our missteps as we join in prayer together because the church is not yet the perfect body of Christ. Let us seek God's forgiveness.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God, we have presumed much. We have grasped for freedom without taking full responsibility for our actions. By our actions, some of our sisters and brothers are excluded, some are misled, and some are unjustly accused. If we have contributed to the sorrow of another, we are deeply sorry. We seek your guidance and your forgiveness. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

All who love God are known by God. God smiles upon our efforts to rid our lives of habits that destroy and prejudices that divide. We count on God to understand us, to free us from our connection to negativity, and to dwell among us, transforming our lives in light and with love. Thanks be to God!

**\*SONG OF PRAISE:** This is the Day  
**(This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it!)**

SPECIAL MUSIC: One Little Star (Our Children)

## **WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

*At this time, all children are invited to come forward for the children's offering, and children's time. An offering is not required for participation. All are welcome, especially first time visitors.*

CHILDREN'S OFFERING and PRAYER OF DEDICATION  
**In our hearts these gifts we bring; for you give us  
everything. Teach us how to follow you; in all we say  
and all we do. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN #336 Here Oh My Lord I See

OUR SACRED STORY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Please extend a hug  
or a handshake and say "Peace be with you" to those  
around you.)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and 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 remain seated**. The elements will be brought to you - the **ushers will serve each half-row**. You will first be invited to take the bread – **which you will HOLD so that we can ALL take the bread together**. This symbolizes that we are ONE BODY and that we are all one in the Spirit of Christ. (Please let us know if you need gluten-free bread.)

You will then be invited to take a cup of grape juice which symbolizes the cup of wine that Jesus shared with his friends, saying “This is my blood shed for you.” You are invited to prayerfully drink the cup in your own time. This demonstrates that we are each individuals in God’s Presence - each one doing the best that they can to be the hands and feet of Christ on this earth.

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 family all are we  
Let me walk with my neighbor In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry 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

Children are excused after the second verse.

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 1:21-45**

SERMON: Looking Forward

HYMN #44 Beautiful Jesus

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We can never do enough to earn God's generous blessings. We can only express our gratitude by sharing the bounty we have been honored to receive. It is a privilege to be able to give.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY Siyahamba

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on You, gracious God, and on what You expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be**

**used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #42 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated)

*\*Indicates all that are able may stand.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH Members of the Congregation

DEACONS - Sue Lindemann, Brian Williams

LAY READER - Cathy Zylinski

USHERS - Diaconate

GREETER - Tom "Woody" Woods

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST -Joan Virga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR -Christine Lehoullier

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Michelle Guerrin

## **Mark 1:21-45 "The Voice" translation**

**Narrator:** <sup>21</sup> They came *at last* to the village of Capernaum *on the Sea of Galilee*; and on the Sabbath Day, Jesus went straight into a synagogue, *sat down*, and began to teach.

<sup>22</sup> The people *looked at each other*, amazed, because this strange teacher acted as One authorized *by God*, and *what He taught affected them* in ways their own scribes' teachings

could not. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in the gathering who was overcome by an unclean spirit shouted.

**Unclean Spirit:** <sup>24</sup> What are You doing here, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I can see who You are! You're the Holy One of God.

**Jesus:** <sup>25</sup> Be quiet, and come out of him now!

**Narrator:** <sup>26</sup> The man's body began to shake and shudder; and then, howling, the spirit flew out of the man. <sup>27</sup> The people couldn't stop talking about what they had seen.

**People:** *Who is this Jesus?* This is a new teaching—and it has such authority! Even the unclean spirits obey His commands!

**Narrator:** <sup>28</sup> It wasn't long before news of Jesus spread over the countryside of Galilee. <sup>29</sup> Right after they left the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> They told Him about Simon's mother-in-law who was there in bed, sick and feverish. <sup>31</sup> Jesus went to her side, took her hand, and lifted her up. As soon as He touched her, the fever left her *and she felt well again—strong enough to bustle around the house* taking care of her visitors.

**Narrator 2:** <sup>32</sup> Just before night fell, others had gathered all the sick, *diseased*, and demon-infested people *they could find*. <sup>33</sup> *It seemed as if* the whole town had gathered at Simon and Andrew's door. <sup>34</sup> Jesus was kept busy healing people of

every sort of ailment and casting out unclean spirits. He was very careful not to let the demons speak because they knew Him *and could reveal to the people who He really was.*

**Narrator:** <sup>35</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus got up, left the house while it was still dark outside, and went to a deserted place to pray. <sup>36</sup> Simon and the others traveling with Jesus looked for Him. <sup>37</sup> They finally tracked Him down. Whenever possible, Jesus seeks out solitude so He can pray and meditate. Jesus reveals His humanity. In these silent and reflective moments, He seems to refuel mentally, physically, and spiritually because Jesus hears His Father speak during His time alone. Throughout Jesus' ministry on earth, hearing from His Father seems to help Him focus on the mission at hand: redemption.

**People:** Everybody wants to know where You are!

**Jesus:** <sup>38</sup> It's time we went somewhere else—the next village, maybe—so I can tell more people *the good news about the kingdom of God.* After all, that's the reason I'm here.

**Narrator:** <sup>39</sup> So He traveled *to the next village and the one after that*, throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and casting out unclean spirits. Jesus is confronted with a man who has leprosy—a skin disease that makes him ritually unclean according to Jewish law. This creates a problem with the authorities. <sup>40</sup> A leper walked right up to Jesus, dropped to his knees, and begged Him for help.

**Leper:** If You want to, You can make me clean.

**Narrator:** <sup>41</sup> Jesus was powerfully moved. He reached out and actually touched the leper.

**Jesus:** I do want to. Be clean.

**Narrator:** <sup>42</sup> And at that very moment, the disease left him; the leper was cleansed *and made whole once again*.

<sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away, but first He warned him strongly.

**Jesus:** <sup>44</sup> Don't tell anybody how this happened. Just go and show yourself to the priest *so that he can certify you're clean*. Perform the ceremony prescribed by Moses as proof of your cleansing, *and then you may return home*.

**Narrator:** <sup>45</sup> The man talked everywhere about how Jesus had healed him, until Jesus could no longer come into a town openly *without the risk of being mobbed*. So He remained on the outskirts. Even so, people still sought Him out from far and wide.

## **General Announcements January 5, 2020**

**A message from the Financial Secretary-** If you want contributions to be included in your tax returns for 2019, they must be at the church **TODAY** and should be dated December 31, 2019. The books will be closed Monday, January 6, 2020. Thank you, Pat Crowell, Financial Secretary

**Budget Updates-** The first 2020 budget information session is after worship service today. The current draft has a \$45,000 deficit. Obviously this isn't a viable budget. The solutions won't be easy. We need your help to find the solutions that are best for our congregation.

The second information session will be after worship on January 19<sup>th</sup>. We'll provide budget overviews and as much detail as anyone wants. We hope you will join us to better understand the issues we're dealing with, hear the ideas we're contemplating, and offer your ideas.

**The Annual Report deadline is tomorrow**, Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please send your reports to Michelle, the office is email [officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org) Thank you!

**January 14<sup>th</sup> Adult Faith** Formation begins: We meet Tuesday evening from 6:30-8pm. We are excited to announce that we will be reading the 1st volume of Anne Robertson's new series, "Exploring Justice: The Ten Commandments." The books have arrived, please see Christine or stop by the office.

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed** is ready for donations! Items accepted; Clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, curtains and stuffed animals. Please take a flyer in the lobby.

**This Wednesday** at KIT (Keeping in Touch) our guest presenter will be Pastor Deborah who will bring us stories about her life as a French Professor, her years living in France and how her father was rescued by members of the French Resistance during WWII. This would be a great opportunity to invite friends outside our own church family to join us for some food fellowship and conversation. Everyone brings their own bag lunch and we eat from 12:30 to 1:00. The program runs an hour, more or less, but people come and go as they are able. In addition to all of this French, Pastor Deborah will give us some information about a trip to Aghadowey being planned for this summer.

**Wonder Wednesday** – This Wednesday 7:00pm. We invite you to experience another interactive wonderful and wonder-filled evening of prayer, praise, singing and wondering. Invite a friend.

**Brainstorming for Pastor's Sabbatical in 2021:** Pastor Deborah has delayed her sabbatical until 2021 in order to work with members of the congregation in crafting a proposal that will benefit both the pastor and the congregation. We will be writing a Lilly Foundation grant proposal for a significant amount of money (up to \$50k; \$15k for the church and \$35k for the pastor's expenses). "What will make your heart sing?" is the lead question of the grant. What kind of programs or speakers might the church participate in during Pastor Deborah's absence that would renew and rejuvenate the church? We invite you to participate in a brainstorming session on January 12<sup>th</sup> after

church. Schedule: brainstorm in January; compile and distill our ideas in February and write in March.

### **Mark your calendars!**

January 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 12:30 K.I.T. (Keeping in Touch) All are welcome, please bring a brown bag lunch.

7:00 Wonder Wednesday!

Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup> ~ 11: 30 Pastoral Sabbatical

Brainstorming 11:45 Christian Ed Meeting

Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 11: 30 Budget information session

New Member Gathering ~ AB (after the Budget information session)

Purchase or reload your  gift cards after church. A percentage of the dollars that you **already** spend at Hannafords can help the church. Checks can also be dropped off during office hours. Thank you!

**First Parish Congregational Church**  
**IN OUR PRAYERS – January 5, 2020**

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Time spent with families

Another successful year of community fellowship with monthly spaghetti supper! Thank you to Spaghetti Angels. Christmas Eve Services ~ Pageant, Carols, Lessons and Candlelight!

K.I.T. enjoyed listening to Marge Palmer telling Christmas stories. It was wonderful!

Santa Breakfast was a huge success. Thank you everyone!

The Derry Fire Department for their diligence in visiting our Church numerous times to update their maps and records and Facilities for continued efforts to keep our Church safe.  
Advent Talk 'n Walk on the Labyrinth – so peaceful.  
Advent Workshop – what a joy! Sugar Plum Fair – a community comes together on a beloved project!  
Visit from the Aghadowey Rural Kinship  
Thank you, Bill Smallwood of W.J. Smallwood Landscaping!  
Bricks look great!  
Thank you, Paper Angels! We are good for now!  
Gratitude to people who are catching up with their pledges!  
Kindness Rocks – with gratitude to Christine Lehoullier, our kindness ambassador

## **PRAYERS OF HEALTH and HEALING**

Marge Palmer's granddaughter, Rebecca, for her surgery.  
Rev. Renee Rouse on the death of her son, Tre.  
Selma Gould and Ken's children who are grieving the death of Ken on November 23.  
Pauline Gorgol, Stan Gorgol's mother, for her healing after a car accident  
Jorge Alpizar, fiancé of Liz's daughter Rebekah is undergoing treatment for prostate and bladder cancers.  
Cole Ferry, Cindy Pingree's nephew, was in a car accident  
The family of Bill VenderWoude, who passed away after a long struggle with cancer  
Prayers for Paula Robinson and family  
Alyssa Mulhern and her family, she is a friend of Diane Breeden, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and surgery is planned in a month.  
Jo Worthen's sister Barb continues to struggle with cancer.

## **SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS**

Andrea Cooper health & strength

Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Southern NH Family Promise

Avis Hanson, Marjorie Palmer's cousin's wife, battling, and in treatment for, cancer

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Tim Beers – Health & strength

Bob Dinan, father of Karen & Bob Wilson's friend Kristen Wilson, ongoing struggle with cancer

Brian Krantz and ALL of the Wildland Firefighters this fire season

Victims of floods and fires 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.