

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

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday



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)

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others.

In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

WELCOME TO ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS; SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

HYMN: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

All glory, laud, and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is a day of joyous welcome.

All: We welcome Christ with waving branches.

One: Let all who follow Christ sing God's praise.

All: Open the gates of righteousness that we might enter.

One: This is the day that our God has made;

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

INVOCATION

Be gracious to us, O God, as we rejoice in this day that you have made. Guide our thoughts and actions so we may appreciate the infinite possibilities available to us when we nurture relationship with you. In you we trust, in you we find a home. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. Come, then, to confess the sin and doubts that cause you to stumble.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, sometimes we cry out and hear no answers; we suffer and find no relief. We are tempted to blame you - even though we are the ones who cut off communication. We complain in the midst of plenty and groan over imagined slights. Have mercy on us, and help us to understand your hopes for us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God calls each of us by name. The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent and to empower those who have grown weary. Your strength is being renewed in these moments. You will mount up with wings like eagles. You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint. Praise God!

SONG OF PRAISE # 213 *“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*

*Hosanna, loud hosanna
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.*

WE SPEAK TO GOD’S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WE JOIN THE LONGEST TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: Let us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)
Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees)
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

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

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 together. This 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 given 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.

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 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

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

GOSPEL OF MARK – CHAPTER 11: 1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you

doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

HYMN NO. 215

"Ride On! Ride On in Majesty"

Ride on, ride on in majesty!

Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;

O Savior meek, pursue your road

with palms and scattered garments strowed.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We are invited to give generously of all that we have and all that we are. Do our gifts shout good news to the world? These are difficult times for many. Remember that our church continues its mission among the people of God and continues to need your financial support. You may mail your check directly to the church or you may call the office to arrange direct giving from your bank to us.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

May these gifts bring life-changing good news to the least, the lost and the lonely. May they contribute to restoring relationship and renewing generosity to many. May your saints be raised to new life in your steadfast love. Amen.

WE COMMIT TO LOVING AND SERVING A LOVING, SERVING GOD

REFLECTION: One heck of a Week!

BENEDICTION

**MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER
ORGANIST**

Members of the Congregation
The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof



IN OUR PRAYERS - April 5, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

So many cases of people helping people!

Thanks to everyone for your patience and for helping one another at this difficult time.

Family Fun Night- gratitude to everyone who helped and who attended.

Wednesday presentations by Nancy Heywood, who presented on the Boston Massacre and the Meetinghouse stained glass windows. Both presentations were great!

Update: Alyssa Mulhern (friend of Diane Breeden) – She is doing great- Thank you for your prayers!

A wonderful celebration of life of Ken Gould at Pilgrim UCC!

Nico Immanuel Peters was born 2/16 and he is already attending church!

Wednesday program with Carolyn Ferguson-Wilson who brought Harriet Tubman to life for us!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

To the family of Marge Allen, who died this week; our prayers of comfort and support
Trina Brand asks for prayers: The crew of the USS Roosevelt (aircraft carrier) where COVID-19 is spreading rapidly and our friend (the priest on board) is trying to give hope and peace, along with the USNS Comfort, now in NYC, where our friends on crew are trying to help the sick of that city.

Joan Virga and her family who are grieving the death of her mother, Vima LeJeune.
Sheryl Hall (sister of Wayne Hall) has died. Pray for her wife Chris, Wayne and Lisa and their family

CANCERS: Avis Hanson, Marjorie Palmer's cousin's wife; Jo Worthen's friend **Cindy** & her family continue to struggle with cancer, as well as the loss of her (Cindy's) sister and Cindy's father's recent diagnosis; from Nutfield Coop: Grace Theroux; Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, recurring leukemia; Joan (friend of Wendy Williams) liver cancer; Janice Paradzick; Bob Dinan (friend of the Wilson's)

Jo Worthen's friend Diane & family: dealing with a fatal disease of her daughter, Terri.
Diane Breeden and her family as they grieve the loss of Aunt Barbara McKeen, who was married to Diane's uncle Donald Wyman McKeen.

Nancy Murdock's friend Erin Hutchinson has some serious medical issues
Bonnie Hillsgrove, friend of Tim Beers

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Nurses, Doctors, First Responders; National Guard

Active Military; Aghadowey Rural Kinship; Southern NH Family Promise

Andrea Cooper health & strength

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Tim Beers – Health & strength

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.