

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

**January 26, 2020**



## **Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac**

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

LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN # 401 O God in Whom All Life Begins

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand in body or Spirit)

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

**Many: We come together as a congregation of believers.**

One: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

**Many: The works of God's hands are established among us.**

One: Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.

**Many: Let us call on our awesome God to empower our worship.**

\*INVOCATION (unison)

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

\***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

### **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 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.**

Children are excused as we sing: **"Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go."**

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 5:1-20

<sup>1</sup>They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes <sup>2</sup>And when (Jesus) had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him.

<sup>3</sup>(This man) lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain; <sup>4</sup>for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup>Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones.

<sup>6</sup>When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; <sup>7</sup>and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." <sup>8</sup>For (Jesus) had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." <sup>10</sup>He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup>Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; <sup>12</sup>and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them."

<sup>13</sup>So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering

about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. <sup>14</sup> The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

Then people came to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup> They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. <sup>17</sup> Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

<sup>18</sup> As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>19</sup> But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." <sup>20</sup> And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

SERMON "Awe-struck, Amazed or Afraid"

HYMN #488 Be Still My Soul

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

An important way to give thanks to God is through sharing the bounty we have been honored to receive. We can never earn God's generous blessings. We can only express our gratitude by passing a portion of what we have received. It is a privilege to be able to give. The morning offering will now be received.

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

\*DOXOLOGY: Siyahamba #526

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present today 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 our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

\*HYMN #403 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

### **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated during the Postlude)

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

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH-Members of the Congregation

DEACON-Fred Merrill

USHERS-Jack Martin, Michael Bryan

GREETER- Shirley Dickason

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST-Joan Virga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR -Christine Lehoullier

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT- Michelle Guerrin

## **General Announcements January 26, 2020**

**ANNUAL MEETING** ~ today following Worship Service. Pick up your Annual Report. Stay for lunch. Find out what God is accomplishing in our midst.

**Nutfield Coop School - Priority Registration** for 2020-2021 school year is for all families who currently have children at Nutfield School, ever had children at Nutfield, or are members of First Parish Church and is available through Thursday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. Please email [cmurray@nutfieldcoop.com](mailto:cmurray@nutfieldcoop.com) for registration forms.

**Spaghetti Supper** is this Friday. Please contact Kevin Gordon or Bill Mann if you are able to volunteer.

**Younger Youth** (ages 9-13) will meet this Friday 5:00-7:30 to help with Spaghetti supper, eat together and share ideas.

**Ken Gould - Our dear friend Ken met our Creator on November 23, 2019. Ken touched the lives of so many people. We are putting together a tribute to him to be shared with his family. Do you have a story or words of appreciation that you would be willing to share? If you have a photo, a favorite memory, a story or simply "one word to describe Ken" please send it to [pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org) by Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance, Pastor Deborah**

**January Adult Faith** Formation meets Tuesday evening from 6:30-8pm. We are reading the 1st volume of Anne Robertson's new series, "Exploring Justice: The Ten Commandments." All are welcome.

**February Newsletter** ~ Please send articles by early morning Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> - Articles are welcome anytime. Thank you!

**Calling all Paper Angels! The office could use your gifts of paper!**

**Every year Horton Center** recruits hands on workers to open up camp for the season. It will be 5/15 - 5/17/20. Help if you can. Here is the link: <https://hortoncenter.org/camps/opening-work-days/>

**Prepared to Serve: February 22, 2020: Join us for a day of education, fellowship and fun as NH Conference plans a full schedule for the day that includes time for**



breakfast, worship, workshops, exhibits, and lunch with fellow UCC'ers from all over New Hampshire. Over 50 different workshops offered on a variety of topics, we pray that this day will be meaningful and productive. Look at this year's schedule and sign up on <http://www.nhcucc.org/caring-for-congregations/prepared-to-serve> Sign up on church office door for car-pooling.

**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.

### **Mark your calendars!**


Monday January 27<sup>th</sup> ~ Office will close at noon.

Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> ~ Please send your newsletter articles to Michelle; Adult Faith at 6:30 in AB

Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Deacons meet in Cook at 6:30

Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> ~ 5:00-6:30 Spaghetti Supper / 5:00-7:30 Younger Youth (ages 9-13) Group gather

Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 10:00 ~ Ken Gould's Celebration of Life at Pilgrim UCC in Brentwood.

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 26, 2020**

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

20 folks at Adult Faith Formation – we are looking at Priorities!

Planning a trip to Aghadowey in July!

Productive, informative and cooperative Council meeting

KIT: listening to the narrow escape of Pastor Deborah's father during WWII was awe-inspiring

Wonder Wednesday – we enjoyed an authentic, safe space to express our deepest feelings to God

Time spent with families

Another successful year of community fellowship with spaghetti supper! Thank you 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!

Advent Workshop – what a joy! Sugar Plum Fair – a community comes together on a beloved project!

Thank you, Bill Smallwood of W.J. Smallwood Landscaping! Bricks look great!

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**

Vintage Grace is undergoing financial challenges

Wendy Williams' friend Joan has been diagnosed with liver cancer and is undergoing chemo treatment.

Janice Paradzick- reoccurrence of cancer

Malysa Deranian – fell skiing on January 8 but was able to go back to college!

A member of the Nutfield Coop school family: Grace Theroux, 2, and her family for complete healing of the leukemia and strength and comfort for the family during this difficult time.

Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, being treated for recurring leukemia.

Marge Palmer's granddaughter, Rebecca, after her recent 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.

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**

Active Military

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.