

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

June 21, 2020
The Confidence of Job



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 also celebrate Fathers and Graduates!

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC and LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #70 God Is Here! As We Your People Meet (vs. 1, 4)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Based on Psalm 146)

One: Happy are those whose hope is in God, for God keeps faith forever!

Many: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.

One: God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.

**Many: People of God, sing praise to the One who is our help—
for God keeps faith forever!**

INVOCATION (unison):

**Faithful God, you draw near to us in our joy and in our grief, in our hope and
in our despair. When we are bowed down, you raise us anew. We turn to you
now in search of your healing touch. God of compassion and love, move
among us this hour. Open our eyes, dispel our fears, and show us the real
life you have to offer. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

INVITATION INTO A TIME OF CONFESSION:

We were created in God's image, an image of mutuality and respect for one
another; an image of a dance ever moving, ever in tune one with others; an image
of community with shared blessing and mission. God has given us responsibility of
God's Creation and charged us to take good care – of one another and of the
natural world. And we fall short of that charge. Let us go to God with open hearts.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Forgive us God; we have denied our true purpose. We have abused the
earth's resources for our own selfish gain and the consequences wreak
havoc upon the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and every living thing that
moves upon the earth.**

**Forgive us God; we have taken your name in vain. We have regarded some of
your children as "other" and treated them badly. Sometimes we have looked
the other way when someone else delivered the harsh treatment.**

Forgive us God; for we have fallen short of your intention.

(A moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.)

And all God's people say: "**Amen.**"

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has heard our prayer and desires above all else to see broken relationships restored. In the name of Jesus, the Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE:

Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, God of love. Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Jesus said, "Let the little ones come unto me." Let's sing "Jesus loves me"

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: Job 14:7-15; 19:23-27

⁷ "For there is hope for a tree,
if it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
and that its shoots will not cease.

⁸ Though its root grows old in the earth,
and its stump dies in the ground,

⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth branches like a young plant.

¹⁰ But mortals die, and are laid low;
humans expire, and where are they?

¹¹ As waters fail from a lake,
and a river wastes away and dries up,

¹² so mortals lie down and do not rise again;
until the heavens are no more, they will not awake
or be roused out of their sleep.

¹³ O that you would hide me in Sheol,
that you would conceal me until your wrath is past,
that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

- ¹⁴ If mortals die, will they live again?
All the days of my service I would wait
until my release should come.
- ¹⁵ You would call, and I would answer you;
you would long for the work of your hands.

Job 19:23-27

- ²³ “O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
- ²⁴ O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!
- ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
- ²⁶ and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
- ²⁷ whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

HYMN: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy the blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives my everliving head!
He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

SERMON: “I know That My Redeemer Lives”

WE RESPOND WITH REMEMBRANCE AND PRAYER

CELEBRATING FATHERS AND GRADUATES

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (1 Kings 17: 8-16)

The widow of Zarephath thought the end was near. In a time of great drought, she had only enough meal and oil to prepare a last bit of flatbread for herself and her son. And yet, when asked, she was willing to share what she had with a stranger. With great courage, she trusted God’s promise to provide for her family. Her story invites us to look at the act of sharing as an act of trust. Let us share generously and courageously because we can trust God to provide us with what we need.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

God the Spirit guide and guardian, windsped flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we give these gifts because you ask us to share. We dedicate this offering and our lives to your service, that the hungry may be fed, the oppressed may receive justice, and the stranger may be welcomed in our midst. We offer this prayer in the name of the bearer of your good news, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

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

HYMN #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions vs. 2

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar.
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

BENEDICTION

People of God, trust this: God keeps faith forever. Be filled with new life, ready to bear the good news of God's promises.
And should you find yourself feeling worried or discouraged this week, remember that the wondrous love of God, the healing power of Christ Jesus, and the bold courage of the Holy Spirit, go with you today and always.

POSTLUDE "Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go."

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MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
TECH DEACON – Rachel Cobban
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 - June 21, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Sue & Rick Metts recovering from COVID. They appreciated the prayers!
Jennifer Robinson & Heather Richardson - Inducted into the National Society of Leaders & Success at Northern Vermont University - Johnson Campus;
Thank God for all of the peaceful racial justice demonstrations and changes!
Outstanding spirit of cooperation as demonstrated by a one hour Council meeting!
Joyful success of the 2020 financial needs toward getting back to the sanctuary!
Paul Lindemann's help with our virtual worship
Neighbors who love their neighbors by wearing masks and keeping distance!
Technology that allows connection in this era of physical separation!
Spaghetti Supper Angels serving our community in spite of a pandemic!
Thank you to Lisa at Rig-a-Tony's! for their generous donation for Spaghetti Supper!
Thank you to Jeff Slowick for fantastic advice about Internet tips!
Grateful for the Worship Service created by the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ
Bible Wonder Tuesday night continues to be enriching and enlightening!
Joyful Update: Thank you for all your prayers for triplets Avery, Conner and Bradley. They have made it through surgery and are home doing well. They are waiting until Bradley is stronger. Thank you from their family too. Lianne D
Update: Bronte (Jo Worthen's niece) had her baby!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

For the families of those who have died in our community: Families of: Janet Williams (Brian Williams' mother: 8 Poplar Circle, Londonderry, 03053); Rev. Bob Sargent (a Cobban Family Friend), Scott True (son of Mel and Ginnie), Douglas Greetham (Diane Gordon's father), Glenn Allen, long-time faithful member of First Parish, Pam (neighbor of Rachel Cobban) and Eric Ellis (Firefighting friend of Brian Krantz).

For the families of two black men found hanging: Robert Fuller, Malcolm Harsch
For Healing:

Marcie Zingo, recovering from leg amputation on Monday. 19R Juniper Rd,
Derry, NH 03038

John Barker, in the hospital in Michigan

Pat Crowell had knee replacement two weeks ago and is home recovering

For those with cancer: Avis Hanson, Marjorie Palmer's cousin's wife; 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), Danny with stage 4 cancer, brother of Mary Jane (friend of Cobban family)

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

For those who choose hate and those who choose violence

For people who are losing their livelihood due to this pandemic.

For health care professionals who are “on the front lines” of this war against covid-19
Parkland Hospital Personnel, All Nurses and Doctors, Hospice workers and employees
of Nursing Homes and Extended care facilities; 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

Bonnie Hillsgrove, friend of Tim Beers

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.



Ethan Forbush with his mother Heather Paradzick

GRADUATES 2020

High School:

Ethan Forbush - Graduated from Pinkerton Academy; Going to Plymouth State College, majoring in Biology (9 Brier Lane Derry NH 03038) (Son of Heather & Jim Paradzick)

Billy Knapp – Graduated from Pinkerton Academy (Maury Davidson’s grandson)

Associate/ Bachelor:

Ashley Cox - Keene State College, major in psychology, minor in sociology

Michael Cox – Nashua Community College, degree in Auto Mechanics (31 South Main Street, Derry NH 03038)

MacKenzie Kittery - Keene State College, major in Health Sciences, working full-time in Nutrition Services with Registered dietitians at the Elliot Hospital & Health System (31 Birch Street, Derry NH 03038) (granddaughter of Diana & David Kittery)

Andrew Nelson - Keene State College; Will teach High School math at Pembroke Academy 16 Dubeau Drive, 03038 (son of Beth & David Nelson)

Courtney DesRoches - Keene State College; major in middle school math; will teach at Merrimack Middle School (Daughter of Anne-Marie Merrill: 11 Winter Hill Road, 03038)

Jordan Baronas - Quinnapiac University graduate
2 Chandler Dr, Londonderry NH 03053 (Beth Hunter’s grandchild)

Bailey Hamilton - New England College graduate
2 SaraBeth Lane Londonderry NH 03053 (Beth Hunter’s grandchild)

Doctorate:

Arlo Wetherbee - Graduate of Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences with doctorate in Pharmaceutical Sciences (28 Redfield Circle, Derry NH 03038) (Son of Bart & Janet Wetherbee)