

First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
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June 7, 2020



Communion 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."*

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #277 Holy, Holy, Holy (vs. 1, 3)

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

Early in the morning we praise your majesty. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Though we know but dimly,

Though the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,

You alone are holy, you alone are worthy, perfect in power, and love and purity.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We see God's glory in the expanse of Creation.

Many: All that God has made reflects God's goodness.

One: We receive great abundance and care from our Creator.

Many: God blesses us day by day with good things.

One: We gather to praise God and greet one another.

**Many: Let us worship the Creator and Sustainer of all things
And rejoice in Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit.**

INVOCATION (unison)

Triune God, known to us in more ways than we can count, we marvel at the mystery of life, and wonder at your attention to our lives. Let us experience your presence in this time of worship. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Human life is precious and marvelously interconnected. Let us confess our neglect and irresponsibility in relation to all creation and to one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amazing God, the more we learn of your creation, the more we are filled with awe and wonder. Yet, our vision narrows to our limited concerns, and we forget the needs of our neighbors. We have not always taken good care of this home we call Earth. We have not always cared well for one another as sisters and brothers. O God, help us fulfill our baptism and claim our discipleship as forgiven and forgiving sinners. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

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 SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN #321 Break Now the Bread of Life

Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me, as you once broke the loaves beside the sea; Beyond the sacred page I seek thee Lord; my spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.

Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me, as you once blessed the bread by Galilee; Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall, and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

OUR SACRED STORY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PEACE HYMN:

Peace is flowing like a river; flowing out of you and me;
Flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

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 at the same time. This act 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 poured out 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.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Job 1:1-22 The Voice Interpretation

1 Once there was a man *from* Uz by the name of Job. He was a very good man—his character spotless, his integrity unquestioned. In fact, he so *believed in God that he sought to honor Him in all things*. He deliberately avoided evil *in all of his affairs*.

² He had 7 sons and 3 daughters; ³ he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a large number of servants. Among Easterners, he was the most powerful and influential man. ⁴ His sons, *who were all wealthy landowners, too*, all used to gather together *on each others’ birthdays and special occasions*. The brothers would take turns hosting the others in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ When these days of feasting were through, Job would call all of his family *to his own house* and purify them, rising up early in the morning to offer burnt sacrifices for each one.

Job: *God, forgive my children for any secret sins or grudges they have against You deep in their hearts.*

Job did this again and again.

⁶ Now one day, it came time for the sons of God, *God's heavenly messengers*, to present themselves to the Eternal One *to give reports and receive instructions*. The Accuser was with them there.

Eternal One *(to the Accuser):* ⁷ Where have you been?

The Accuser: Oh, roaming here and there, running about the earth *and observing its inhabitants*.

Eternal One: ⁸ Well, have you looked into *the man*, Job, My servant? He is unlike any other person on the whole earth—a very good man—his character spotless, his integrity unquestioned. In fact, he so *believes in Me that he seeks, in all things, to honor Me and deliberately avoids evil in all of his affairs*.

The Accuser: ⁹ *I won't argue with You that he is pious*, but is all of this *believing in You and honoring You for no reason?* ¹⁰ Haven't You encircled him with Your very own protection, and *not only him but his entire household and all that he has? Not only this, but Your blessing accompanies whatever his hand touches, and see how his possessions have grown. It is easy to be so pious in the face of such prosperity.*

¹¹ So now extend Your hand! Destroy all of these possessions of his, and he will certainly curse You, right to Your face.

Eternal One: ¹² *I delegate this task to you*. His possessions are now in your hand. One thing, though: you are not to lay a finger on the man himself. *Job must not be touched*.

With that, the Accuser left *the court and the Eternal's presence*.

¹³ Now one day, all of Job's children were gathered together under the roof of Job's firstborn *for their usual celebration*—feasting and drinking wine—¹⁴ when a messenger came to Job.

Messenger: *We were in the field*. The oxen were plowing, the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and *out of nowhere*, the Sabeans attacked. They stole your animals, all *1,000 oxen and donkeys*, and as for your servants, they put their swords to us, and everyone is dead—*every last one, except me*. I am the only one who got away *from the fields* to tell you.

¹⁶ And while the words were still leaving the messenger's mouth, another messenger arrived.

Second Messenger: *Lightning has struck!* The fire of God fell from the sky and burned the *7,000 sheep alive . . . alive!* Shepherds, too—all of them burned; everyone is dead—*every last one, except me*. I am the only one who got away *from the pastures* to tell you.

¹⁷ And while the words were still leaving that messenger's mouth, a *third* messenger arrived.

Third Messenger: Chaldeans! Three groups of them attacked us. They converged on the camels and stole your 3,000 animals, and as for your servants, they put their swords to us, and everyone is dead—*every last one, except me*. I am the only one who got away to tell you.

¹⁸ And while the words were still leaving that messenger's mouth, *yet a fourth* messenger arrived.

Fourth Messenger: All of your children *were gathered together today* under the roof of your firstborn *to celebrate*—eating a feast and drinking wine—¹⁹ and then a powerful wind rose up from *the other side of* the desert, and it struck all four corners of the house. It collapsed! Everyone is dead—all of those young people—*every last one, except me*. I am the only one who got away *from your son's house* to tell you.

²⁰ Then Job stood up, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell to the ground. *Face down, Job sprawled in the dirt to worship.*

²¹ **Job:** I was naked, *with nothing*, when I came from my mother's womb; and naked, *with nothing*, I will return *to the earth*.

The Eternal has given, and He has taken away.

May the name of the Eternal One be blessed.

²² In all of this, Job neither sinned nor did he make *foolish* charges against God.

SERMON: Listening to the Voices Around Us

HYMN #261 Let Every Christian Pray (vs. 1, 3)

Let every Christian pray, this day and every day, come Holy Spirit, come!

Was not the church we love, commissioned from above? Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour, come, Holy Spirit, come! Unite, instruct, inspire, and fill us with your fire; come, Holy Spirit, come!

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We cannot count the blessings of life which God supplies to us. The mandate of Christ is clear: "Go and make disciples of all nations." That means we must, first of all, accept our own discipleship in wholehearted obedience and self-giving service. Give as generously as you are able.

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

Amid our doubts and the temptation to grab life's blessings for our own personal use, we come to dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to realize your reign on earth, majestic God. As we enjoy your bounty, we give that all our sisters and brothers might also come to appreciate the amazing gifts you entrust to us. Thank you for life and all its wonders. Amen.

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

HYMN #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions (vs. 4)

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young.

Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

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

POSTLUDE

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 7, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Peaceful protestors speaking out for justice sake

All the people who love their neighbors by wearing masks!

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 Debbie Gline Allen, Joan Virga, Rachel Cobban, Jack Martin, Joan Virga for Sunday Service participation.

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
Gratitude to Doug Pawl (Melanie & Alan's son) for making ear protectors for hospital workers.

Update: Bronte (Jo Worthen's niece) had her baby!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

For the families of those who have died: Families of: George Floyd, 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 Healing:

Sue & Rick Metts, who both have COVID.

Sandra, friend of Jo Worthen, has a bacterial UTI.

Mike Dubisz (Jo Worthen's brother) is recovering from surgery.

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.