

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

July 12, 2020



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 # 506 What a Friend We Have in Jesus vs 1, 3

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer!
Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Do not cling to old ways because God is creating a new day among us.

Many: We become wearied yet our Creator offers us rest in the wilderness.

One: Happy are those who look beyond their own troubles.

Many: The call of God is gentle but persistent and God waits for us.

One: Surely God will be with us and be our God from everlasting to everlasting!

Many: Thank you, Christ Jesus, who forgives and heals and all praise to the Spirit who makes all things new.

INVOCATION (unison):

Faithful God, we recognize your abiding "Yes" to us when we are in deep need. We come to you now, aware of some of the continuing issues in our lives that paralyze us and separate us from you. Bring healing and peace to us that we might become instruments of healing in our world. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say, may Jesus Christ be praised! Let sin and evil fear, when this sweet chant they hear; may Jesus Christ be praised!

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

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 Theme of Consolation

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints throughout Achaia:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies
and the God of all consolation, ⁴ who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may
be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which
we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are
abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶ If we are
being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is
for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same
sufferings that we are also suffering. ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know
that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

⁸ We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we
experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired
of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we
would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He who rescued us
from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that
he will rescue us again, ¹¹ as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that
many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers
of many.

SERMON: "Unshaken Hope"

HYMN # 449 Softly and Tenderly (vs 1, 4)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See at the portals Christ waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
Come home, come home, all who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling - calling, "O sinner, come home!"
O for the wonderful love Jesus promised, promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned Jesus offers us pardon, pardon for you and for me.
Come home, come home, All who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling – calling, "O sinner, come home!"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

For the healing of nations and individuals, for the re-formation of the church, to the
honor and glory of God, we bring our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. God is
not pleased with tokens but calls for wholehearted commitment. May this time of
giving reflect our integrity as Christians.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Adorn, O martyred saints of old, the coronation hail; Extol the wounded One foretold and crown Christ bearer of all, Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With joyous thanksgiving, we offer ourselves and our substance to honor you, our Creator. We want to be responsible stewards of all the resources gathered by our church and of all the bounty you have entrusted to us individually. In consideration of the poor, both those who lack basic necessities and all who are spiritually destitute, we dedicate this offering. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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

HYMN #547 Amazing Grace (vs 1,2)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

BENEDICTION

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
LAY READER – Brian Williams
DEACON/GREETER- Rachel Cobban, Jack Martin
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 - July 12, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Anne-Marie Merrill's parents celebrating 69 years of marriage!

Worthens are on the mend after Covid.

Labyrinth walk and Wonder Wednesday – venues of connection during this separation

Anne-Marie's gift of gardening!

Sue & Rick Metts recovering from COVID. They appreciate the prayers!

Joyful success of the 2020 financial needs toward getting back to the sanctuary!

Paul Lindemann's on-going help with our virtual worship.

Neighbors who love their neighbors by wearing masks and keeping distance!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

For the families of those who have died in our community: Families of: Nancy 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 Comfort/Consolation:

John Fields, Ken William's cousin: his Granddaughter, Jocelyn Boston, passed away in February, his wife, Lorna, passed away in March and his son, Dana, passed away in May.

For Healing:

Verna Elwell, on the mend at CMC. Cards may be sent to 3 Hood Rd. #507 Derry Aunt Sandra (Joanne Worthen) hospitalized after heart attack also has pneumonia.

Trina & Terrance Brand's nephew Nathan and his family (wife, young daughter, parents, and sister) At 32, he has been diagnosed with glioblastoma (brain cancer) and has 6-24 months to live. We pray for comfort and peace.

Marcie Zingo is recovering from leg amputation (19R Juniper Rd, Derry)

John Barker, recovering in Michigan

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.

