

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
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Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

November 22, 2020
Christ the King/Covenant Sunday
Happy Thanksgiving!



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 #422 Come, O Thankful People, Come vs.1, 2

Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;
God our Maker does provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
All the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
All the spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
All that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Holy, Holy, Holy! God, we come again into your Holy Presence.

Many: We remember the gifts of Jonah and Isaiah and we come to hear more.

One: Let us hear the message of Jeremiah and step into the wisdom of God.

Many: In these days of physical distance, let us remember the core message of our faith.

One: No matter where we come from, we are united in our love for You.

Many: And no matter where we are, we are together in Spirit.

INVOCATION (Read by Lay Reader. Others may join in at home.)

Holy God, sometimes when we hear your message we, too, may feel like running from it or even throwing it into the fire. This is not one of those times. We come here right now to listen deeply and to hear. We gather to learn how we might grow into your dream for us. Be with us, compassionate God, in this time of worship and praise. May we hear your love for us above all else. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Praise our God together singing Alleluia! (repeat twice)

WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

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: Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34

Jeremiah 36:1-8

¹ In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ² Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to

you, from the days of Josiah until today. ³ It may be that when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin. ⁴ Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him. ⁵ And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am prevented from entering the house of the Lord; ⁶ so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the Lord's house you shall read the words of the Lord from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of Judah who come up from their towns. ⁷ It may be that their plea will come before the Lord, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the Lord has pronounced against this people." ⁸ And Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the Lord in the Lord's house.

Jeremiah 36:21-23

²¹ Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. ²² Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him.

²³ As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.

Jeremiah 36:27-28

²⁷ Now, after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:

²⁸ Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned.

Jeremiah 31:31-34:

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

SERMON: Consistent Call to Turn Toward God

HYMN #531 God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak vs. 1, 2, 3

God speak to me, that I may speak
In livings echoes of your tone;
As you have sought so let me seek
Your erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, God, that I may lead
Some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
Your hungry ones without delay.

O fill me with your fullness, God,
Your overflowing love to know;
In glowing word and kindling thought,
Your love to tell, your praise to show.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

God's love is for all of Creation. We have been given much. These resources are more than enough for us. We are called upon to share the bounty we have received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC – Chime Choir - Grace and Thanksgiving

***DOXOLOGY # 303 Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing**

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Holy giving God, you call us to share the abundance you have given us and so we give. Bless these gifts, we pray, and multiply the goodness that they provide your children near and far. May we be motivated by giving to give even more – knowing that your blessing is in each heartfelt gift. In your generous name we pray, Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

HYMN #420 We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been,
When perils o'er take us, you never will forsake us,
And with your help, O god, in life's struggles we win.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Go now in peace. Go now in peace. May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go." *Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-708716.*

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
LAY READER – Diana Sweeney
GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Katie 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 - November 22, 2020

PRAYERS OF JOY

Council is grateful for all of the positive things that are happening – despite Covid!
The exterior of the connector is practically finished!!
Pastor Deborah had an incredibly inspirational Study Leave!
Walking prayer circles around Meetinghouse! We ended with a service of gratitude!
New Book Group began: Unbinding the Gospel! Books are still available.
Gratitude from Pastor Deborah for everyone who pitched in and helped in the office!
Gratitude texting groups: three groups uphold one another in prayer and gratitude
Labyrinth finger walks and growing appreciation in this ancient spiritual practice.
Paul Lindemann's on-going help with our virtual worship.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Beth and her daughter Allison - both have Covid - friends of Nancy Murdock
Family and friends of Colleen Robbins, who died on 11.7.20 (relative of the
Guerrin Family)
Family of Molly Rockwell, who died in a car accident. Chris Cox was her Scout Leader
and friend of the Robinson Family.
Suzanne MacGibbon on the death of her 62-yr-old son Kevin who died 11.2.20
Families of the 247,834 deaths in the US due to COVID 19.
Melanie Pawl was hospitalized with Covid; Alan is Positive for Covid but at home.

For Courage and Strength: Everyone in this post-election USA; Teachers and all school personnel; Medical Professionals of all levels and in all locations; Paula Robinson; pastors; world and local leaders

For Healing:

Pat Crowell: knee surgery on 11.4.20; 29 St Andrew's Way, Londonderry, 03053

Edie Cefaly (Pat Cefaly's) sister and her family: Edie is experiencing memory loss.

John Stewart, long-time member and friend of First Parish. Cards would be welcome:

1 Oak St.; Derry 03038

Lindsay Huber recovering at Brigham Health and Rehab, 77 High St, Newburyport, MA 01950 but is facing serious health issues. Cards of encouragement needed.

Dillingham Family (friends of Diana Sweeney) who lost their home in Oregon and at the same time a joy that they and pets are all safe.

McKeil Family (friends of Diana Sweeney) for comfort and healing in the coming days due to a challenging diagnosis

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.

For those with cancer: Rosemary, friend of Marge Palmer, dying of Stage 4 lung cancer with congestive heart failure; Verna Elwell has stage 1 lung cancer (along with some other health concerns) cards can be sent to: 3 Hood Rd, #507; Derry; Kate, Jesse's friend is battling terminal cancer; Steph Lesko, friend of Pastor Deborah's daughters: 30-yr-old mother of a 1-yr old, diagnosed with advanced breast cancer that has spread to lymph nodes – had mastectomy - prayers for Steph and her whole family; Jay, Marjorie Palmer's friend, a 41-yr old father of 3 young children who has been recently diagnosed with multiple cancers and given possibly a year to live. Hanson, Marjorie Palmer's cousin's wife; Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick Plouff, recurring leukemia; 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

Andrea Cooper health & strength

For the families of those who are hospitalized and are unable to visit them.

For teachers, staff, & students the uncertainty of going back to school.

For those who choose hate and those who choose violence

For people who are losing their livelihood due to this pandemic

Parkland Hospital Personnel, and All Nurses and Doctors, Hospice workers and employees of Nursing Homes and Extended care facilities

First Responders; National Guard Active Military

Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Our Covenant Partner: Pastoral Counseling Services, Inc.

Southern NH Family Promise; Sonshine Soup Kitchen; Marion Gerrish; Upper Room Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Union Theological College in Zimbabwe, as well as our friend Kennedy Gondongwe
Everyone in Zimbabwe, a country riddled with revolution and pandemic.
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 Covid and violence; Refugees and their families
People of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community
Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors

