

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
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**January 17, 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.”*

**WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come together, O People of God, to the One in whom we can trust.

Many: God is our refuge and our strength.

One: God’s Word of an overarching and enduring love is our guide.

Many: Let us worship the God of Truth: love is our Truth.

HYMN #7 “All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (vs 1, 3)

All people that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheerful voice;  
Delight in God whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Enter the sacred gates with praise, with joy approach the temple walls,  
Extol and bless our God always as people whom the Spirit calls.

INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)

God of love, encounter us here that we may grow in wisdom, courage and love.  
Disturb our certainties as defined by worldly endeavors and upset cultural priorities  
in order to make room for hope in You, faith in Your constant Presence and trust in  
the teachings of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

**WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Miss Christine zooming in from home!

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:** Luke 4:14-30 Sermon at Nazareth

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" <sup>24</sup> And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

### **SERMON:** "For Fear of Cliffs"

#### HYMN #350 "Now in the Days of Youth" (vs 1-4)

Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice,  
When hope and doubt touch every hour, when all thoughts find a voice,  
We turn, O God, to you for guidance and for grace.  
In all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.

Teach us to use our lives with purpose and with power  
For visions of a better world and for decision's hour;  
To choose the way of life, reject the way of death,  
Until the radiant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.

Teach us to love in truth, to give and to receive  
With joyful and with open hearts, with all that we believe;  
To seek another's good, to honor what is right,  
To let our will and our desire be held in holy light.

Teacher, Creator, God, enfold us in your arms;  
Be with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.  
All good and perfect gifts come to us from your hand,  
O help us use them carefully and live by love's command.

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

### OFFERTORY INVITATION: (Lay Reader)

God calls the church to be more than a building. We are the people chosen by God to love more and do more. We are called to sow seeds of justice and compassion. The resources we dedicate here are but a portion of what we have received from God's goodness. Let us give enthusiastically.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

#### \*DOXOLOGY

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Pastor Deborah)

With awe and wonder before you, O God, we dare to enlist all of our efforts toward the realization of your realm. May our resources to toward the sacred work we know to be Your will as we champion justice, compassion and understanding for all of Your children. Amen.

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

### HYMN: "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands"

(whole world; you and me, sister; you and me, brother; itty bitty baby; whole world)

### 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 – Sue Brown

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 – JANUARY 17, 2020**

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Gratitude for our Irish Friends who worship with us every week!  
Gratitude for our friends in Zimbabwe!  
Gratitude for member in Georgia and Laconia and other faraway places!  
Gratitude for the people who put themselves in harm's way for our country's safety.  
Congratulations to the Pingree family: Welcome to Rory Jean, born January 4!  
Congratulations to Kayla and Christopher, and to Grandma Cindy and Grandpa Mark!  
Happy New Year! Happy Epiphany!  
Dr. Kennedy Gondongwe is recuperating nicely from Covid.  
Successful COVID-19 Vaccine being distributed.  
Family Promise is an amazing mission and resource to our community! Pastor Deborah's trunk was FULL! Thank you to everyone who gave.  
Drive-in Christmas Eve was wonderful!  
Paul Lindemann's work on the prerecorded Christmas Eve service.  
Grateful for Spaghetti Supper Angels  
Progress on the connector and elevator!  
Mission giving does so much good!  
So many people participated in the Angel Tree Project. Santa is alive and well!  
Our first "drive-in" church was a lot of fun! Thank you everyone who made it possible!  
Council is grateful for all of the positive things that are happening despite Covid!  
Gratitude texting groups: three groups uphold one another in prayer and gratitude  
Labyrinth finger walks and growing appreciation in this ancient spiritual practice.

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

Prayers for Trudie Bergeron, whose brother died; for the family and friends of Avis Hanson, who died recently (the wife of Marge Palmer's cousin); Rosemary, friend of Marge Palmer, died 11.28.20; 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 over 383,000 deaths in the US due to COVID 19.

### **PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING**

Jennifer Robinson tested positive for Covid  
Anne Engelhardt and her family  
Wendy William's health concerns.  
Kathleen McFadden (friend of Trudie Bergeron) recently diagnosed with cancer on her lung will have surgery after Thanksgiving.  
Beth and her daughter Allison - both have Covid - friends of Nancy Murdock

Teachers and all school personnel; Medical Professionals of all levels and in all locations; pastors; world and local leaders

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

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

**For those with cancer:** 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; 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. 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**

Law Enforcement and other protectors of our safety and democracy; especially National Guard Active Military

Family Promise in their new expanded facility

Everyone in Zimbabwe, a country riddled with revolution and pandemic

Tom and 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; Aghadowey Rural Kinship

Our Covenant Partner: Pastoral Counseling Services, Inc.

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

Union Theological College in Zimbabwe, as well as our friend Kennedy Gondongwe 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