

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041  
47 East Derry Road, Derry NH 03038  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**FEBRUARY 14, 2021**



**TRANSFIGURATION  
SUNDAY**

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE  
NO MATTER WHERE  
YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY

YOU 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: Awe-inspiring, brilliantly shining God of all the generations:

Many: We come to be in your holy Presence and to hear Your voice.

One: The voice of God is sometimes thunder and sometimes a still small voice.

Many: Let us be attentive to all the ways in which God tries to speak to us.

HYMN: #282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

**Refrain:** Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain my God spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.

Looked all around me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine. (Refrain)

Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold, it chills the body, not the soul.

There's only one train on this track; it runs to heaven, then right back. (Refrain)

INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)

Good and gracious God, awaken within us the fire of our faith. Ignite the embers of our yearning that bursts into flames of hope in action before our very eyes. We are ready, O God, to see Your miraculous Presence all around us! Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: “Glory, glory Hallelujah”

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - “He's Got the Whole World In His Hands”

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:** Luke 9:28-36 (37-45)

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

<sup>30</sup> Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup> They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

<sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

HYMN: #182 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,  
splendor bathes the flesh joined Word,

Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.

Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet;

Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

**SERMON:** "We Can Do Better"

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION: (Lay Reader)

We have been blessed with the light of Christ within us. Some days it shines brighter than others. The trick is to ignore the days when the light seems dim – for that is a mere perception and not the reality of the tremendous glow of God's shining light that blesses us every day. Let us give of ourselves every day as if we were aglow with Jesus on the mountain top.

OFFERTORY MUSIC: HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH VIDEO

\*DOXOLOGY: I'm so glad

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Pastor Deborah)

We give thanks, Glowing God, that Your light shines regardless of our ability to perceive it. May the gifts we now offer to Your church glow brightly in our community and in our world not because of who we are, but because You love us so! In love and light 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: #2 Glory, Glory Hallelujah

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down. (Sing twice)

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down. (Sing twice)

Feel like shouting Hallelujah! Since I laid my burdens down. (Sing twice)

Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burdens down. (Sing twice)

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 – Katie Cobban  
GREETERS – Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Brown  
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST - Joan Virga  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Michelle Guerrin  
AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann

Visit our Facebook page or our website for recent videos of services and moments of Christian Faith Formation and inspiration.

## *IN OUR PRAYERS - February 14, 2021*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Melanie and Alan Pawl have a new “fur baby”  
Pastor Deborah and Liz’s piano found a new home!!  
Jo Worthen’s sister, Sue and her husband, Bruce, are home after having Covid.  
Successful and peaceful Annual meeting. Gratitude to all of the tech support!  
Over 100 scarves knitted by Sharon Hartmann!  
Spaghetti Supper – The frigid weather did not stop our team! Nearly 100 dinners were served in spite of the frigid cold temperature and brisk wind.  
Family Promise had a successful work day; thanks to Liz Greenberg, Wendy Williams and the Browns for representing First Parish in the Mission. (Ken Gould is smiling.)  
Peaceful transition of power in Washington  
Very productive Council meeting; grateful for lay leaders; grateful for people who participate financially to the mission of this church!  
Tuesday night Adult Faith conversations were rich and rewarding.  
Thank you to the Paper Angels!  
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 has recuperated from COVID-19.  
Successful COVID-19 Vaccine being distributed.  
Progress on the connector and elevator!

Mission giving does so much good!

Labyrinth finger walks and growing appreciation in this ancient spiritual practice.

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

Prayers for the family of Nancy Sullivan, Cyndi Gray's sister-in-law, who died 2.7.21.

Pat Crowell's sister Judy, whose husband, Bruce, died 2.4.21 from Covid

Prayers for Jo Worthen's family as Uncle Rudy has died from Covid (2.5.2021)

Prayers for Eileen Cox and family: Eileen's brother Jake (in Florida) died 1.18.21;

Trudie Bergeron, whose brother died; Families of the over 463,600 deaths in the US due to COVID.

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

Kate (friend of Chris Cox) dealing with difficulties in pregnancy

Diana (friend of Heather Richardson) undergoing tests to rule out cancer

Pam Pillsbury needs prayers of encouragement.

The Gordon Family continues to have COVID in their house. Their grandson & daughter tested positive so they will continue to quarantine until the end of the month.

Carl (friend of Melanie Pawl) had open heart surgery. Pray, too, for his wife Sandy for comfort while he's in the hospital as she can't be with him.

Manny, brother-in-law of the Guerrins, hospitalized in Chicago with leukemia.

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, has moved to a long-term care facility.

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

Trina & Terrance Brand's nephew Nathan and his family (wife, young daughter, parents, and sister) Last year at 32, he was diagnosed with glioblastoma (brain and is approaching the end of his life. We pray for comfort and peace.

**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 diagnosed with multiple cancers.

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 Active National Guard Military; First Responders;  
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 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  
Aghadowey Rural Kinship – all of our friends in Northern Ireland  
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  
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