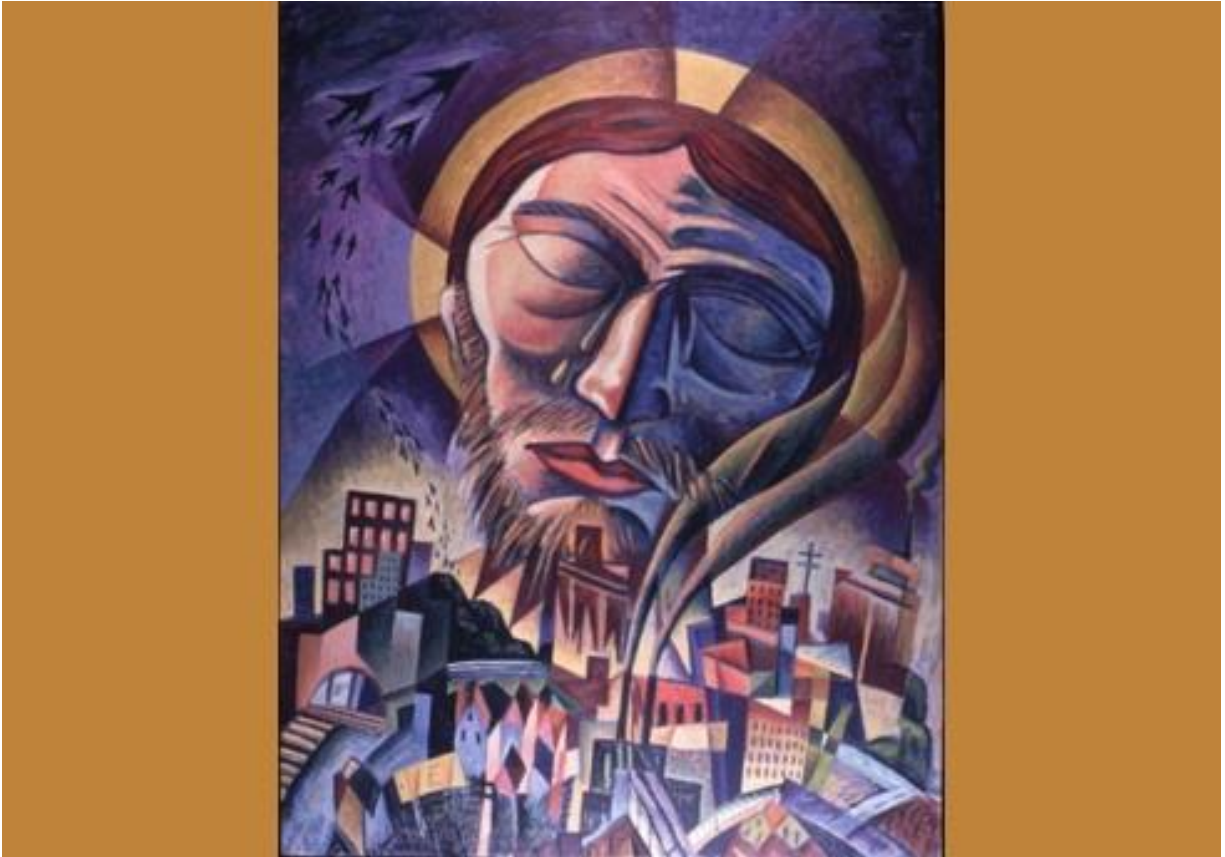


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
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**FEBRUARY 28, 2021**



**Lament over Jerusalem**

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 (Led by the Lay Reader) (based on Psalm 122: 1-4)

- One: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”  
Many: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
One: Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.  
Many: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

HYMN: #13 ***O My Soul, Bless Your Creator*** (vs. 1, 2, 3)

O my soul, bless your Creator; all within me bless God's name;  
Bless your Maker, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.

God forgives all your transgressions, all who suffer, gently heals;  
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.

Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;  
Like a mother and a father, God compassionate has been.

INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)

We come before you, gracious God, seeking what money cannot buy. Only You can provide nourishment for our souls. We cannot find true peace without knowledge of You. As a community of faith, we call on you, believing that You are as close as our very breath. Uphold us now as we worship on wings of joy. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory, 2x

## **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 13: 1-9, 31-35**

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>(Jesus) asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one

more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> (Jesus) said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

<sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**SERMON:** A Time For Everything Under Heaven

**HYMN:** #553 *There is a Balm in Gilead* (vs: 1, 2, 3)

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,  
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,  
Who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend. Refrain

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all. Refrain

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

**OFFERTORY INVITATION:** (Lay Reader)

Why do we give to God what is left over? Why not give to God off the top of what we have received? Surely God offers us freely treasures that we cannot buy. Let us show our gratitude by giving.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**DOXOLOGY:** *Masithi*

(Masithi) Amen, si ya ku du mi sa, (masithi) (Repeat)  
Amen, Bawo, Amen, Bawo ; Amen, si ya ku du mi sa.

(sing amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen)  
Amen, amen, amen, amen; Amen, we praise your name, O God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Please join Pastor Deborah)

We return to You, O God, but a portion of the wealth that You have bestowed upon us. We give financially to this church because there is much work to be done in Your name. This church is faithful to that mission sending blessings far and wide – in Your name, O God. Multiply our efforts, we pray. Amen.

### **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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

HYMN: #35 ***A Mighty God*** (vs 1 and 4)

O mighty God, when I survey in wonder the world that  
Formed when once the word you said, The strands of life  
All woven close together, the whole creation at your table fed.

My soul cries out in songs of praise to you, O mighty God! mighty God!  
My soul cries out in songs of praise to you, O mighty God! O Mighty God!

And when, at last, the clouds of doubt dispersing, you will reveal  
What we but dimly see; With trumpet call, our great rebirth  
Announcing, we shall rejoin you for eternity.

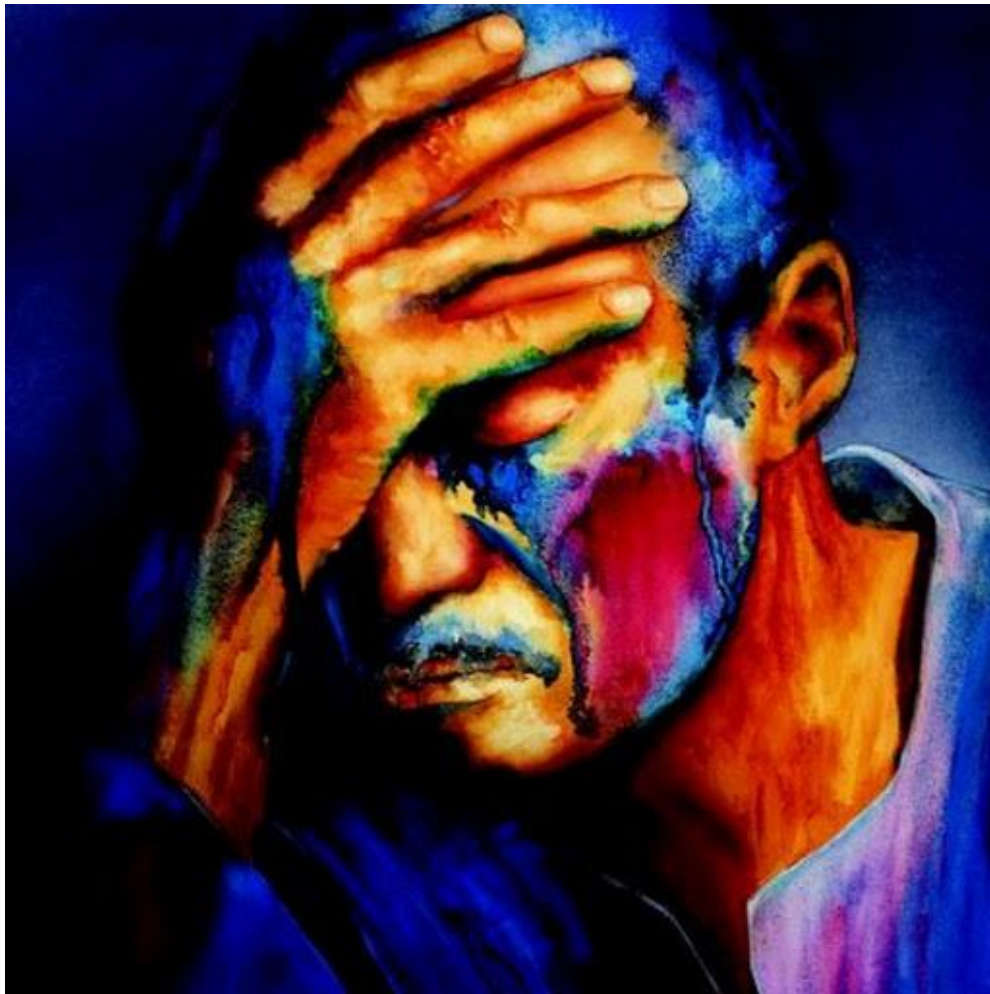
Then we will sing your praise forevermore, O mighty God! O mighty God!  
Then we will sing your praise forevermore, O mighty God! O mighty God!

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 – Jack Martin, Sue Lindemann  
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 28, 2021*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Spaghetti Supper

Pancake Breakfast- Virtual! We had a good time.

First Virtual choir rehearsals! Thank you, Joan!

In person Ash Wednesday Service

The orchid in Pastor Deborah's office is blooming beautifully.

The piano (given in memory of Arlene Williams) in the Virtual studio has been tuned

Melanie and Alan Pawl have a new "fur baby" – Hunter!

Pastor Deborah and Liz's piano found a new home!!

Jo W'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 H!

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.

Peaceful transition of power in Washington

Tuesday night Adult Faith conversations were rich and rewarding.  
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!  
Successful COVID-19 Vaccine being distributed.  
Labyrinth finger walks and growing appreciation in this ancient spiritual practice.

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

Prayers for the family of Nancy Sullivan, Cyndi G's sister-in-law, who died 2.7.21.  
Pat C's sister Judy, whose husband, Bruce, died 2.4.21 from Covid  
Prayers for Jo W's family as Uncle Rudy has died from Covid (2.5.2021)  
Families of the over 500,000 deaths in the US due to COVID.

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

Kevin R. (friend of Liza D) who is struggling with Covid; he is in the hospital with double pneumonia  
Kate (friend of Chris C) dealing with difficulties in pregnancy  
Diana (friend of Heather R) undergoing tests to rule out cancer  
Pam P needs prayers of encouragement.  
Carl (friend of Melanie P) 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.  
Anne E and her family  
Wendy W's health concerns.  
Kathleen M (friend of Trudie B) recently diagnosed with cancer on her lung will have surgery after Thanksgiving.  
Teachers and all school personnel; Medical Professionals of all levels and in all locations; pastors; world and local leaders

**For those with cancer:** Liza D's husband's Uncle Walt has Stage 4 cancer and has an operation Feb 25; Kate, Jesse's friend is battling terminal cancer; Jay, Marjorie P'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 P, recurring leukemia; Janice P; 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 C - 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 B – Health & strength  
Bonnie H, friend of Tim B  
Brian K 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