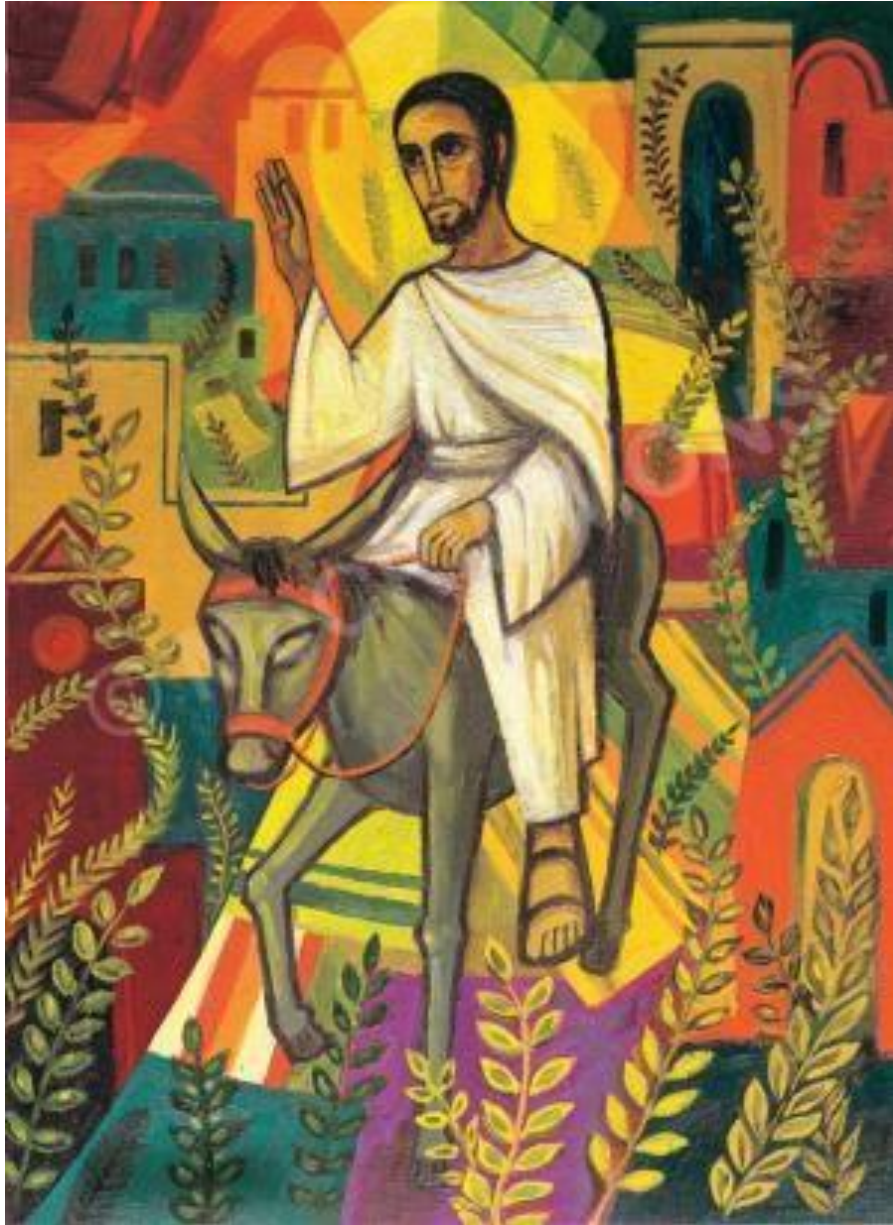


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, East Derry NH 03041 // 47 East Derry Road, Derry NH 03038
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

March 28, 2021



Triumphal Entry

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is an historic community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others.
In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF PASTOR LINDA & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, the King and Blessed One.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by lay reader)

One: This is a day of joyous welcome.

All: We welcome Christ with waving branches.

One: Let all who follow Christ sing God's praise.

All: Open the gates of righteousness that we might enter.

One: This is the day that our God has made;

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

INVOCATION (Led by lay reader. Join in at home.)

Be gracious to us, O God, as we rejoice in this day that you have made. Guide our thoughts and actions so we may appreciate the infinite possibilities available to us when we nurture relationship with you. In you we trust, in you we find a home. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE # 213 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

*Hosanna, loud hosanna the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.*

WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – *Jesus Loves Me*

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.

HYMN #215 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty*

Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Savior meek, pursue your road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 19:29-44

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."
Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

⁴¹ As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Lay Reader)

We are invited to give generously of all that we have and all that we are. Do our gifts shout good news to the world? These are difficult times for many. Remember that our church continues its many missions among the people of God and continues to need your financial support. You may mail your check directly to the church or you may call the office to arrange direct giving from your bank to us.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Led by Pastor Deborah)

May these gifts bring life-changing good news to the least, the lost and the lonely. May they contribute to restoring relationship and renewing generosity to many. May your saints be raised to new life in your steadfast love. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYERS

RITUAL OF SABBATICAL BLESSING

Led by Sabbatical Coverage Pastor, the Rev. Linda Snyder

Pastor Linda (shares our context and then:)

These recent past months of pandemic, racial reckoning, and political upset have been costly for those in leadership. There have been new ways of doing things, and intense concentration on how to offer pastoral care and worship. It has been a time of daily stretching of time, of heart and mind.

People: Pastor Deborah, we send you forth with our love and with our abiding prayer for rest.

Pastor Linda: Now, as spring begins and we come into the seasons of Eastertide and Pentecost, I ask you Pastor Deborah, will you truly stop in these weeks to wonder and discern what is, in this moment, the shape of God's call to you? Will you ponder new learnings and ask how you may be being changed? Will you wrestle with what your role as pastor will be within this congregation in this new day?

Pastor Deborah: With the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, I will.

People: We ask not only the blessing of rest and renewal for you, but for the chance to enjoy God and ask questions of God.

Pastor Linda: This sabbatical time also represents a time of sabbath for you as a congregation. It is a time for you to pause as God's people in this place to also ask questions. What have you come to see and newly see as God's Spirit gently moves around the edges of your collective life? What are you learning about yourselves and your gifts and what might be new contours of God's vision for this beloved congregation?

People: We pray for courage to ask questions and the patience to receive sacred response. As we send each other into this season of renewal we pray an awareness of God-With-Us both as pastor and people. Raising our hands in blessing we prepare to receive the gifts of God in the days ahead.

Let us pray.

Pastor Linda will offer a prayer of dedication and sending forth.

WE COMMIT TO LOVING AND SERVING A LOVING, SERVING GOD

REFLECTION by Pastor Deborah: One heck of a Week Coming Up!

BENEDICTION

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof
LAY READER – Beth Hunter
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 - March 28, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Spaghetti Supper – continuing to provide To-Go
Daylight Savings Time! More and more light every day!
Successful COVID-19 Vaccines being distributed across the country! Thank you, God!
Kevin R. (friend of Liza D) is doing much better!
First Virtual choir rehearsals! Thank you, Joan! This begins again after Easter!
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.
Welcome to Rory Jean, born January 4! Congratulations to Kayla and Christopher, and to Grandma Cindy and Grandpa Mark!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Prayers for the family and friends of Manny Madayag (member of the Guerrin family) who died 3.26.21; prayers for Mace L., dear friend of Joan's, whose wife died.
Prayers for George Turner's family (Ed's dad) who died 3.22.21
Prayers for family and friends of Barbara (known as Gram), friend of Paula Cox and a long term Walmart employee died on 3.21.21
Families of the over 541,200 deaths in the US due to COVID.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Young 8 yr old Nash needs healing prayers; his family needs strength
Raymond C, son of Maryann's friend Linda, needs a heart transplant.
Stephen, nephew of Eileen Cox, diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma stage 3, spreading quickly.
Kate (friend of Chris C) dealing with difficulties in pregnancy
Anne E and her family
Wendy W's health concerns.
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; 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 Bob and Karen); Danny with stage 4 cancer, brother of Mary Jane (friend of Rachel and Alec); Kathleen M (friend of Trudie B) diagnosed with cancer

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Prayers for peaceful resolution to difficult issues. Prayers for compassion, not hate.
Parkland Hospital Personnel, and All Nurses and Doctors, Hospice workers and employees of Nursing Homes and Extended care facilities
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
Aghadowey Rural Kinship – all of our friends in Northern Ireland
Southern NH Family Promise; Sonshine Soup Kitchen; Marion Gerrish; Upper Room Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church
United Theological College in Zimbabwe, as well as our friend Kennedy Gondongwe
Tim B – Health & strength
Bonnie H, friend of Tim B
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