

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, NH 03041; 47 East Derry Road, Derry NH 03038  
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**March 21, 2021**



Zacchaeus

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 (based on Psalm 84) (Led by lay reader)

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**Many: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

One: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars,  
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**Many: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

HYMN: #475 **God's Eye in on the Sparrow** (vs. 1, 2)

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home?  
When God is ever my portion? My constant friend will be:  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me; (Repeat)

**Refrain:** I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," Christ's tender word I hear,  
And resting on God's goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path God leads me, But one step I may see:  
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me; (Repeat) **Refrain**

INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)

Your Word O God, nourishes us, strengthens us, gives us guidance for this life.  
As we spend time together this day, may our hearts be open to hear you, in the hopes  
that we may follow in the path you have laid before us. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory (x2)

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

"Jesus Loves Me"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Miss Christine

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 18:31—19:10**

<sup>18.31</sup> Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup> For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. <sup>33</sup> After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." <sup>34</sup> But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

<sup>35</sup> As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup> When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was

happening. <sup>37</sup> They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” <sup>38</sup> Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>39</sup> Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>40</sup> Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” <sup>43</sup> Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

<sup>19.1</sup> He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup> A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup> So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup> All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” <sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

**SERMON:** “Climbing A Tree For God”

**HYMN:** #565 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (vs1, 3)

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door:  
Gifted by you we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ’s ageless call.  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

**GOD’S MISSION AMONG US:** One Great Hour of Sharing

**WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S BLESSINGS:**

Use the next few moments to share joys and concerns in the “chat”. Our services are recorded. Please use first names. God knows who you mean.

## OFFERTORY INVITATION: (Lay Reader)

God spoke creation into being – the stars and the trees and the atoms – yet God chose to be in relationship with humans. It is because of this precious and sacred relationship that we are called to give back a portion of what we have received for the good of God's created world. Giving is the greatest blessing we can receive.

## 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: (Pastor Deborah)

God of Abundant Generosity, you call us to be your people. Accept the things that we offer – our time, our gifts and skills, our money, and our very selves – and transform them so that your love might be made known in every corner of the world.

We pray in and through Christ Jesus, who teaches and lives your love. Amen.

## **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

## SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

### HYMN: #43 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (vs 1, 3)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven on earth be found.

Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown,

Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart

Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive,

Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave,

You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,

Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

## 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 – 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 - March 21, 2021*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Daylight Savings Time!

The trinity of vaccines rolling out across the country! Thank you, God!

Kevin R. (friend of Liza D) is doing much better!

Spaghetti Supper served nearly 100 people!

Pancake Breakfast - Virtual! We had a good time.

First Virtual choir rehearsals! Thank you, Joan!

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

Melanie and Alan P. have a new “fur baby” – Hunter!

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.

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!

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 532,300 deaths in the US due to COVID.

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

Eileen Cox needs healing prayers

Manny, brother in law of the Guerrin's, receiving treatment for leukemia

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 Bob and Karen); Danny with stage 4 cancer, brother of Mary Jane (friend of Rachel and Alec)

## **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

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

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