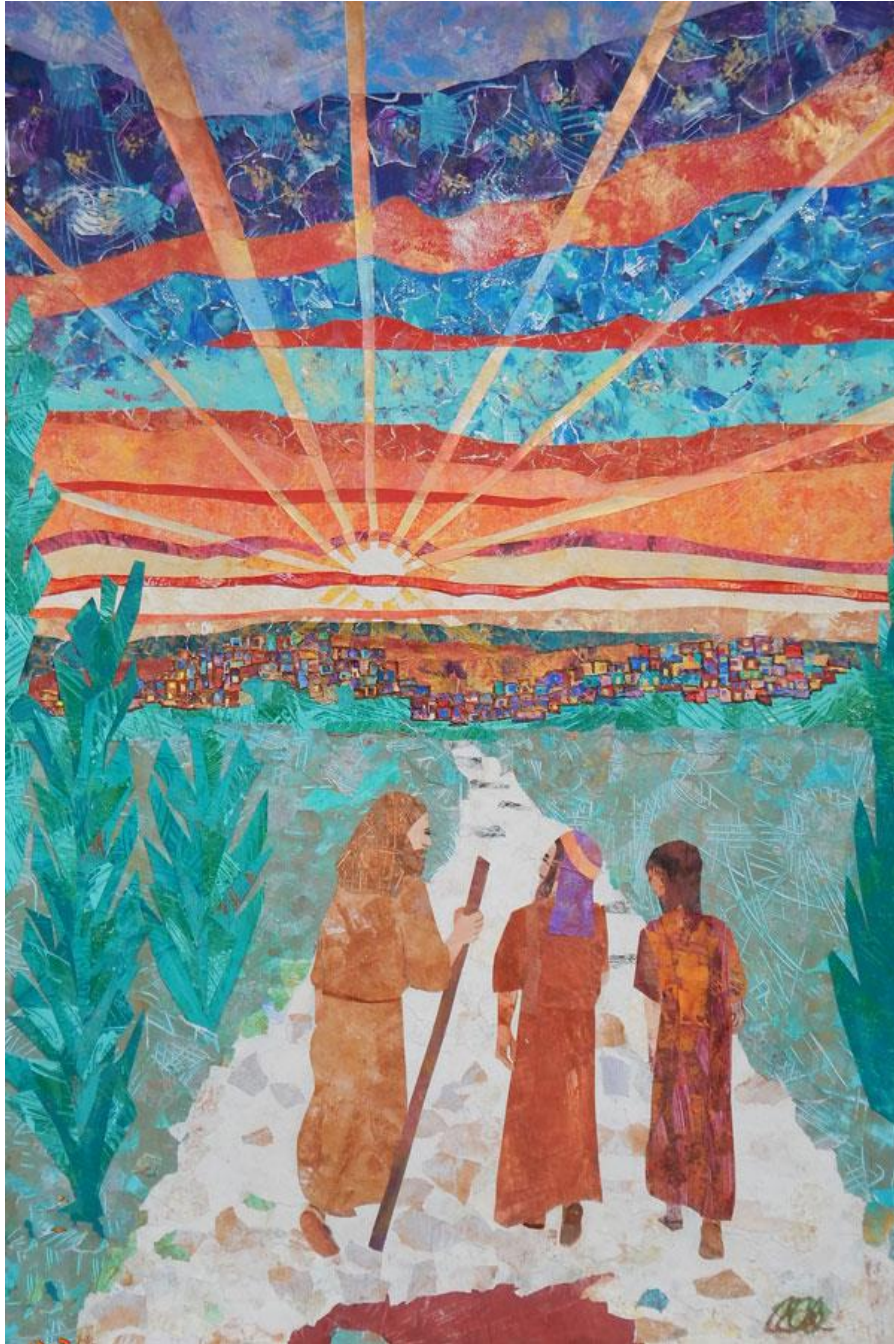


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, East Derry, NH 03041 Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

April 11, 2021



Artist: Carol Cole
<http://carolcolecatholicartist.com/>

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 Lay Reader)

One: Come, in this season of Eastertide and let us discover the Risen Christ in our midst.

Many: Come, let us recognize the resurrected Jesus all around.

One: For the way we travel is both hard and joyful, lonely yet rich in friendship.

Many: We come to this hour eager for a word of life, a word of encouragement, a word of holy companionship. Come now, be filled with the presence of Christ!

HYMN: #233 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia! Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

INVOCATION (Lay Reader – join in at home.)

Holy One, we greet you this morning as Mary and the other women did, with quiet care. We greet you this morning as Peter did, running to find an empty grave, and as John did, with an excited spirit. Walk alongside our Beloved community in these moments of worship that we might go forth with glad and rejoicing hearts. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: #236 *Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah*

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 24: 13- 35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.^[b] ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.^[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us^[f] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON: Walking to Emmaus

HYMN: ***Morning Has Broken***

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

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.

GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CHILD OF GOD – Chris Cox

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Lay Reader)

In these days of worshipping from our homes our ministries continue with great vigor. With our time, we add our treasure so that the new life of Easter might be made known here in our own community and farther still, in all the world. Now is the time for our morning offering.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY #780 ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Pastor Linda)

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

HYMN #242 ***The Strife Is O'er***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun, Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions
has dispersed;

Let shouts of holy joy outburst, Alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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
SABBATICAL COVERAGE PASTOR – The Rev. Linda Snyder
LAY READER – Sue Lindemann
GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Katie Cobban
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST – Joan Virga
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR – Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER – 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 - April 11, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Pastor Deborah begins her Sabbatical Journey- we wish her well! Welcoming Pastor Linda as our Sabbatical Coverage Pastor!
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.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Prayers for the family and friends of Marie Parker (Tim Hepworth's mother in law) who died on 4.3.21, 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 553,600 deaths in the US due to COVID.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Tom's procedure went well. Andrea & Tom thank everyone for their support and continued prayers.

James S (Jeff's dad) who needs dialysis

Erin H. friend of Nancy Murdock. She has a serious autoimmune disease.

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