

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

**April 18, 2021**



**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 Rachel Cobban)

One: Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that slept!  
**All: Break forth into song! God has comforted the broken hearted.**  
One: Thanks be to God, who gives us victory over sin and death!  
**All: Nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God.**  
One: Come, let us worship the Living Christ!

## HYMN: #253 *Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!*

Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!  
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.  
Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away;  
Conquered is the grave in which your body lay.  
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!  
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.  
  
See, it is Jesus, Jesus has appeared,  
Do not doubt at all for nothing you will fear.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;  
Tell it without ceasing: Death has lost its sting.  
Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!  
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.

## INVOCATION (Led Rachel Cobban– join in at home.)

Gather us God, as a mother hen gathers her chicks. Bring us into the safety of your sheltering peace. We give thanks that you accept us no matter our circumstances, that you love us with undying love. In these moments of worship grace us with your presence. Direct and steady us, challenge and engage us. Ignite our imaginations and when we doubt turn our face to you. In the name of the Resurrected Christ, we ask it. 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: John 20: 18- 31

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### SERMON: Locked Rooms

### HYMN: #254 *These Things Did Thomas Count*

These things did Thomas count as real:

The warmth of blood, the chill of steel,  
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,  
The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

The vision of his skeptic mind  
Was keen enough to make him blind  
To any unexpected act  
Too large for his small world of fact.

His reasoned certainties denied  
That one could live when one had died,  
Until his fingers read like Braille  
The markings of the spear and nail.

May we, O God, by grace believe  
And thus the risen Christ receive,  
Whose raw, imprinted palms reached out  
And beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

### **GOD'S MISSION AMONG US: Family Promise**

### **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 (Led Rachel Cobban)

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 offer these gifts as signs of our love, thanksgiving and devotion God. Receive them we pray and in your great mercy multiply them to serve your Kingdom purposes through us. We ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### **WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER**

#### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

#### HYMN: #240 ***Jesus Christ Is Risen Today***

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

“Hasten now to Galilee,” Alleluia!  
“Tell the others what you see!” Alleluia!  
With excitement trembling, Alleluia!  
Off they run, good news to bring, Alleluia!  
  
Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!  
Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!  
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!  
Holy Trinity be praised, 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 Lea Snyder  
LAY READER – Rachel Cobban  
GREETERS – Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Brown  
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 18, 2021*

### PRAYERS OF JOY

Facilities- Clean-up day April 10th! Organized, consolidated, rearranged and cleaned out many church spaces!  
Pastor Deborah begins her Sabbatical Journey- we wish her well! Welcoming Pastor Linda as our Sabbatical Coverage Pastor!  
Spaghetti Supper, Friday April 30th – continuing to provide To-Go  
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! We're back. Thank you, Joan! Thursday nights!  
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 560,00 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 corruption, environmental impacts, 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

**MAKE EVERYDAY**



**EARTH DAY**