

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

May 2, 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."*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Jack Martin)

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

All: Know that the Lord is God. It is God who has made us, and we belong to God; we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter in God's gates with thanksgiving and into the courts of God with praise. Rise up, and bless God's name!

HYMN: #386 *The Church is One Foundation*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
We are Christ's new creation by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
With precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
One charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,
To one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
We wait the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious will be the church at rest.

INVOCATION (Led by Jack Martin. Join in at home.)

On this beautiful morning, we come together seeking a blessing and a presence. Gracious God, still our hearts and open our ears, that we might be renewed in kindness and in faith. Calm our spirits and enter in. We ask it in the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION: (Jack Martin)

Let us sense the love of God here with us now. Let us come on bended knee confessing our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Led by Jack Martin. Join in at home.)

Gracious God, we confess that we have often wandered far from your care. We have tried things our way and failed. Our sorrow is too great to carry. Therefore we lay it before you, begging your forgiveness and pardon. So turn us that we evermore live into the resurrected people you have destined us to be. We ask in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (Jack Martin)

The apostle Paul teaches that "nothing can separate us from the love of God." When we confess our sin we are forgiven and brought close to the heart of Christ. Claim this now and go forth in peace.

SONG OF PRAISE: ***Gloria Patri***

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen, Amen!

GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Jesus Loves Me

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #330 ***Let Us Break Bread Together***

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

OUR SACRED STORY

PEACE HYMN: ***Let There Be Peace on Earth***

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Please extend a hug or a handshake and say "Peace be with you" to others.)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and 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.**

SHARING the MEAL

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22: 14- 23; Acts 1: 15- 26

Luke 22:¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it^[a] until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.^[b] ²¹ But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²² For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

Acts 1 ¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶ "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ "For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his homestead become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it';
and
'Let another take his position of overseer.'

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

SERMON: In Remembrance of Me

HYMN: #391 **In the Midst of New Dimensions**

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways? Refrain

Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? Refrain

As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. Refrain

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. Refrain

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 – Katie Cobban

OFFERTORY INVITATION

These are the moments when we bring our gifts to God. With prayer and thanksgiving let us joyously offer our lives to the God who has created, redeemed, and sustained all the days of our lives. Now is the time for the morning offering.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY: ***Holy, Holy, Holy***

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty! All your works shall praise your name In earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Led by Pastor Linda. Join in at home.)

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in deep gratitude. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might lead us. In the name of the One who lives and moves among us, Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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

HYMN: #393 *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

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
GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Katie Cobban
LAY READER – Jack Martin
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST - Joan Virga
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Michelle Guerrin
AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann and Brian Williams

Visit our Facebook page or our website for recent videos of services and moments of Christian Faith Formation and inspiration.

IN OUR PRAYERS - May 2, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Ukama partner in Zimbabwe - The Rev. John Matiza, newly elected President of the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe.

Continued prayers for Pastor Deborah as she travels her sabbatical Journey. Prayers for Pastor Linda serving as our Sabbatical Coverage Pastor.

Thanks for all who prepared, served and ate at and for our delicious spaghetti supper Friday night.

Successful COVID-19 Vaccines being distributed across the country! Thank you, God! Kevin R. (friend of Liza D) is doing much better!

Rehearsals for virtual choice will take a break until the beginning of May. Tune your voices now!

Gratitude for our Irish Friends who worship with us every week!

Gratitude for our friends in Zimbabwe!

Gratitude for members and guests in Laconia, Georgia, Ireland, Zimbabwe and other faraway places!

Gratitude for the people who continue to put themselves in harm's way for our country's safety.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Prayers for the family and friends of Jay, Marjorie P's friend, a 41-yr old father of 3 young children who died. 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 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 572,000 deaths in the US due to COVID.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Tom's continues to heal. 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 as they return to in-person learning, 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; 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, 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 Nashua expanded facility and as First Parish prepares a congregational meal this week.

Everyone in Zimbabwe, a country riddled with corruption, environmental impacts, and pandemic

For the families of those who are hospitalized and are unable to visit them.

For people who are losing their livelihood due to this pandemic

Aghadowey Rural Kinship – all of our friends in Northern Ireland

For 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, fires and conflict, Covid and domestic violence, refugees and their families who wait.

People of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community

Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors