

**First Parish Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

P.O. Box 114, East Derry, NH 03041 Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

May 16, 2021



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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 Diane Breeden)

One: If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation!

Many: The old passes away and everything becomes new.

One: All this is from God who through Christ reconciled the world.

Many: And we are his ambassadors, Christ making his appeal through us.

All: Children of God, come together— let us worship in newness of life!

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!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

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.

INVOCATION (Led Diane Breeden – join in at home.)

Gracious and loving God, we come together to find nurture and strength in one another and in you. The world can be harsh and so we thank you for the reprieve we find here, a shelter in the storm. We bring our fears and hurts, our gifts and our and our hopes knowing you receive us as we are, and send us forth emboldened and glad. We pray it in the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.

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!

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: Galatians 3: 1-9, 23- 29; Luke 1:68- 79

Galatians 3:1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! **2** The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? **3** Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? **4** Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. **5** Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. **24** Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. **25** But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, **26** for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. **27** As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Luke 1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us **74** that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, **75** in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

SERMON: Clothed in Christ



HYMN: #433 *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody,
There's a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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.

GOD'S MISSION AMONG US: UCC Strengthen The Church

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Led Diane Breeden)

We give to God in many ways: in the bulletins we type, in the plates of spaghetti we hand to a neighbor, in the baking for Family Promise, in the visits we can now have with friends we haven't seen in too-long. And so, in these moments, we offer our financial gifts that undergird the servant ministries we pursue in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Let us give as we are able, generously, thoughtfully, and with joy.

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 (Pastor Linda)

Holy God, we bring these gifts, tokens our love and devotion. Use them to clothe us in Christ that we might brightly shine your light on this East Derry hill. Bless these offerings we pray, and bless we too the givers. We ask it in the name of the Christ. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS



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

HYMN: #451 *Be Thou My Vision*

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
Ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
You my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
Ay I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 – Diane Breeden
GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Sue Lindemann

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST – Joan Virga
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR – Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER – Michelle Guerrin
VIDEO PRODUCTION – Paul Lindemann, with Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder

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

IN OUR PRAYERS - May 16, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

On Saturday, May 15th Pastor Deborah celebrated the anniversary of her ordination into Christian ministry. May she feel lifted up and held by this community—even in her absence!

Thank you to everyone who worked to make Mother's Day a true highlight of our life together, especially Christine and children who made such beautiful petals and flowers that adorned our sanctuary that day. You made our joy complete!

That increased vaccine distribution in the US will continue to build our common resistance as a country.

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

Rehearsals for virtual choir will be beginning soon. Tune your voices now!

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 continue to put themselves in harm's way for our country's safety.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

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 581,000 deaths in the US due to COVID.

Tender prayers for the countries of Brazil and India facing unprecedented COVID cases and deaths.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Cathy Pottle's daughter Shana who was in the hospital briefly this week for an infection.

Judy D. who took a bad fall May 2nd and recovering from serious arm surgery Tuesday at Elliot Hospital. Prayers for Rachel as she supports her.

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 conflict situations around the world and for peaceful
healing of divisions in our own country. 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 Manchester expanded facility

Everyone in Zimbabwe, recovering slightly from desperate hunger and now receiving
some vaccines. Continue with Kennedy and other leaders as they help heal a country
riddled with corruption, continuing environmental impacts and COVID.

For teachers, staff, & students settling into in-person school days.

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, fires, this week's earthquakes in southern parts of the US.

Refugees and their families seeking asylum and safety.

People of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community

Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors