

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

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

**May 23, 2021**



<https://ronaldraab.com/2021/04/19/the-priest-magazine-2021-pentecost-moving-beyond-fear/>

**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: When the world divides us

All: Come, Holy Spirit, make us one.

One: When the world calls us orphaned

All: Come, Holy Spirit, make us family.

One: When the world leads us astray

All: Come, Holy Spirit, call us home.

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

HYMN: #59 ***Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling***

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light;  
Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and blight;  
Holy Spirit, ever raising earth bound soul to glory high;  
Living, life imparting Spirit, you we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever breathing on the church the breath of life;  
Holy Spirit, ever striving through your people's ceaseless strife;  
Holy Spirit, ever forming in the church the mind of Christ;  
In our worship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts unpriced.

Holy Spirit, ever working through the church's ministry  
Quickening, strengthening, and absolving, setting captive sinners free;  
Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul,  
In community unending you we worship and extol.

INVOCATION

Awaken our hearts God, and open our eyes to the beauty of these days. Open us to the wind of your Spirit blowing through us! Renew and heal us in these sabbatical days. May we feel today the uplift and rush of the first Pentecost. 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: Acts 2: 1- 18, 22- 24

Acts 2: <sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them

were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

<sup>22</sup> “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

SERMON: Language Classes



Sung Response: ***Spirit Song***

O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,  
let him fill your life and satisfy your soul. O let him have the  
things that hold you and his Spirit, like a dove, will descend  
upon your life and make you whole. Jesus, O Jesus, come and  
fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

## 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 – Joan Virga

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

We have worshipped God with our prayers and songs of praise. Now let us worship God by bringing our gifts. And may each and all of them together be transformed and multiplied by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

### 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)

Receive and bless these gifts we bring. Use them to deepen our witness in this community. Help us to learn many languages, languages that bring together and build a world of increasing justice for all. We ask it in the name of Christ, our Savior.

## WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS



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

### HYMN: #270 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,  
Like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might;  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,  
To the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign;  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,  
With the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare;  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

## 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 – Jack Martin, Katie Cobban  
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 23, 2021*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

We continue to pray for Pastor Deborah. Even in her absence, may she feel lifted up and held by this community of love.

For you youth who gathered and made the wonderful Memorial Day signs which will be displayed outside our building in honor of Memorial Day 2021 that show our congregation's care and esteem for those who gave their all for our ideals.

That increased vaccine distribution in the US continues that builds our common resistance as a country.

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

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

Gratitude for Rev. Kennedy and our friends in Zimbabwe!

Gratitude for members in Georgia and Laconia and places physically far from us.

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

Prayers this for all who are remembering parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts who gave their life in the course of military service. If you would like them remembered by name, please send or call Pastor Linda with their names before next Sunday.

Jay, Marjorie P's family friend, who died.

Families of the over 586,000 people who have died in the US due to COVID, for those struggling now to recover, and those—over 600 per day-- still dying.

Tender prayers for the countries of Brazil and India facing unprecedented COVID cases and deaths. Prayers for Israel and Palestine that violent conflict will end now.

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

Cathy Pottle's daughter Shana who came home from two brief hospital stays for an infection last week.

Judy D. who is still recovering from arm surgery after taking a bad fall on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Prayers for Rachel as she supports her.

Prayers for Andrea & Tom who 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 and chaplains, 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 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, fire fighters and other protectors of our safety and democracy; especially all first responders, active troops and National Guard Military.

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 have lost their livelihood due to the pandemic, for those job-searching.

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  
Refugees and their families seeking asylum and safety.  
People of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community.  
Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors.

