

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

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

May 30, 2021



<https://www.firstchristianjax.com/2016/04/dinner->

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: In this place there is a sense of coming home, of being known and loved for who we are, of being in the midst of the familiar and the welcoming.

Many: This is not something of our own doing, but a gift from God, whose Spirit is in our midst, bending us to one another in community and love.

One: We are bound by cords of silk, woven into a beautiful cloth.

Many: Christ has brought us to himself. The Spirit abides always-- within and without.

One: Thanks be to God!

HYMN: #282 ***Every Time I Feel the Spirit***

Refrain: Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray,
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain my God spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine. **Refrain**

Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold, it chills the body, not the soul.
There's only one train on this track; it runs to heaven, then right back. **Refrain**

INVOCATION (Led by Lay Reader)

Homemaking God, in your presence we find everything we need. You have prepared everything so that we will find welcome and rest. Come, be among us and in these moments of worship renew and enlarge our hearts. Send us forth more deeply committed to you and to one another. We ask it in the name of 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: Psalm 1, John 14: 1-6

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

SERMON: Troubled Hearts



HYMN: #471 ***What a Covenant***

What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms:
 Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Savior near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

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 – Mike Schroeder

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Led by Lay Reader)

God has given us food in due season, opening a kind and loving hand to fill us with good things. God leads us forward, charting our path ahead. Come, let us bring our offerings as an act of thanksgiving and praise.

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)

We thank you God for journeying with us, not only walking beside us but going ahead to prepare the way. We pause on this journey to give thanks. Receive these gifts that they might create paths of goodness and bounty where all can walk. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS



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

HYMN: #475 ***God's Eye is on the Sparrow***

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home.
When God is ever my portion? My constant friend will be:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye in on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

Refrain: I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled,” Christ’s tender word I hear,
And resting on God’s goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me but one step I may see:
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye in on the sparrow, and I know God watches me. **Refrain**

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I then draw close to my Savior, from care I am set free:
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye in on the sparrow, and I know God watches me. **Refrain**

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 – Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Brown
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 30, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

We continue to pray for a good sabbatical leave for Pastor Deborah.

For you youth, Haley, Abby and Kylie, 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.

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

Families of the over 587,000 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 2nd. 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.