

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

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

June 13, 2021



<https://journalsoftheheart.com/from-darkness-to-light-a-message-of-grace-part-two-love-letter-from-god/>

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

INTROIT – ***Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*** ~ David Haas
Ben Allen -Trumpet, Dani Allen - Guitar/Bass

ALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Sue Lindemann)

One: There are times when we ask: "Where are you, God? I can't feel you near."

All: We ask with the Psalmist, "God, how long will you be gone from me?"

One: In our distress, we are glad to be called to gather. Together we wait for God; together we carry each other's burdens.

All: Here we are reminded that God's love never ends, that God hears every cry, dries every tear, holds every fear.

One: Come, Lord Jesus!

All: In confidence let us call on the name of God!

HYMN: #4 ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You***

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

INVOCATION (Led Sue Lindemann – join in at home.)

God of the light and darkness, of the sun as well as the moon, come to us now.
Enfold us in the assurance that there is not a sparrow that falls that you do not know of it, and that your care for us is strong and never ending. God, receive us as we are, and by the work of the Holy Spirit encourage our hearts, Send us forth renewed and confident in the days to come. We ask it in the Name of Christ. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE:

This is the day, this is the day
That our God has made, that our God has made
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it!
This is the day that our God has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day, this is the day, that our God has made.

ANTHEM – **Amazing Grace** ~ E.O. Excell and John Newton
Ben Allen -Trumpet, Debbie Gline- Allen -Piano

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 13; John 6: 35- 40

Psalm 13:

- ¹ How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
- ² How long must I bear pain^[a] in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
- ³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
- ⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- ⁶ I will sing to the LORD,

John 6:³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸ for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

SERMON: Waiting on God (Rev. Linda Lea Snyder)

HYMN: #553 ***There Is a Balm in Gilead***

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul

Sometimes I feel discouraged
And deep I feel the pain
In prayers the holy spirit
Revives my soul again

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul

If you can't pray like Peter
If you can't be like Paul
Go home and tell your neighbour
He died to save us all

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the wounded soul



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 – Melanie and Alan Pawl

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Led by Sue Lindemann)

We have received from the hand of God—now with thanksgiving we return a portion of that for Christ' work. May our collective gifts serve to make earth a little more like heaven. Now is the time for our morning offering.

OFFERTORY MUSIC – ***Sonata VII*** ~ A. Corelli

Ben Allen -Trumpet, Dani Allen -Guitar/Bass

DOXOLOGY:

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Gladsome rejoice organ and trumpet and voice,
Joining God's great congregation.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Rev. Linda)

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 is on the sparrow, and I know God watches men. **Refrain**

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 is 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 is 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 – Rachel Cobban, Katie Cobban
LAY READER – 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

*We give thanks for the special Music today offer by
Ben Allen, Debbie Gline-Allen and Dani Allen*

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

IN OUR PRAYERS - June 13, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

For everyone who set up and took down, who sold and bought (and offered special gifts) at last weekend's Yard Sale at the church. It was very hot and everyone did so well. Thank you!

Prayers of thanksgiving for our tech team, Joan, Minister of Music, Diane, and for Christine, Christian Ed Minister for making our outdoor, in-person worship so special!
Congratulations and best wishes to all our graduates!

Prayers of joy that Pastor Deborah is having a restful, restorative sabbatical leave.

That increased vaccine distribution in the US will continue to build our common resistance as a country. For those who continue to be taken ill and lose family members.

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

Gratitude for our Irish friends who worship with us every week. Prayers for Lynda's husband Kenny who continues to recover from an e Coli infection.

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

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

Families of the 600,000+ people who have died in the US due to COVID.

Tender prayers for the countries of Brazil, Peru, Nepal, and India facing unprecedented COVID cases and deaths. For those who have lost loved ones to the virus.

Prayers for Israel and Palestine that the cessation of violence will hold and lead to reconciliation. Prayers for those who lost their lives this week in a serious train crash in

Pakistan; for the people of Sri Lanka, suffering after a giant cargo ship burned and sunk off their shores.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Brian, friend of Wendy W. & Jeff S., who is managing serious health concerns.

Jim, Jeff S.'s father, for prayers of healing

Marilyn Ham who took a fall this week, went to the hospital but didn't stay, that she will be healed.

Cathy Pottle's daughter Shana who is recovering from an infection.

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 finishing up the school year; 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.)

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Prayers for peaceful resolution to conflict situations around the world and for peaceful healing of divisions in our own country.

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 Nashua expanded facility and our FP team that will bring dinner each month.

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.

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.

