

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

August 1, 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

“Let There be Peace on Earth”

Let There be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.
Let There Be Peace on Earth; The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator; family all are we
Let me walk with my neighbor In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP - based upon Psalm 100 (Led by Jo Worthen)

One: May a joyful noise to the God, all the earth.

Worship God with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

Many: It is God that has made us, and we are God's; we are God's people,
the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.

Many: Give thanks and bless God's name, for God is good with steadfast love that
endures forever, to all generations.

INVOCATION (Led by Jo Worthen please join in.)

Let us worship the God who knows even the number of hairs on our heads. We
are truly grateful for this opportunity to be in unity before God. Come, Holy
Spirit, anoint us with your life-giving energy – energy that we sorely need in
these times. Amen.

HYMN: #556 ***God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*** (vs 1,3)

God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,

Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;

We, your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.

Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,

Children of creative purpose serving others, honoring you.

May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun;

Great creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

CALL TO CONFESSION: (Jo Worthen)

Try as we might, we fall short all too often. We continue to be surprised with God's
faithfulness in spite of our faith and experience with our giving God. Let us claim
our myopic tendencies.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Led by Jo Worthen, please join in.)

What is it Oh God, with these memories of ours? We forget your power, we neglect
your incredible generosity, and we overlook your created wonder that surrounds us
with every breath. Help us, to seize the truth of your love for us and to allow that
truth and that love to transform us into disciples of light – heralding hope among
your children near and far.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (Jo Worthen)

Each one of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. We are
chosen; we are loved; we are forgiven. Blessed be!

SONG OF PRAISE: 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.

GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ***Jesus Loves Me***

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #336 ***Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*** (vs 1,4)

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon thee lean.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear;
The meal, but not your love, is past and gone.
This joyful feast, confirms that you are here,
Now and forever, as our shield and sun.

OUR SACRED STORY

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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 will take the bread together to represent that we are One in Christ. We will take the juice as the Spirit moves us to represent that maintain our individuality in the eyes of God.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole

armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

SERMON: Standing Against Cosmic Powers

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.

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Jo Worthen)

God does not demand, nor cajole. God loves – graciously and abundantly. We are called to respond to the best of our ability, stretching when we can but honoring God with our faithfulness. May we offer with generous spirits.

GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CHILD OF GOD – Rachel Cobban

DOXOLOGY: #785 We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Led by Jo Worthen, please join in.)

God of wonder, God of delight,
We offer these financial gifts - as well as the gifts of our time and talent in service to our faith family, our community and our world. We would pray that you might bless and expand our efforts, which is often the case with you, Holy One. You surprise and astound us so often by multiplying our meager efforts. We call on you again at this time. May your sheep be fed, may your flocks flourish and may the transformation of living lives of faith be expanded all around us. We are so grateful to you, O God. We humbly pray. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

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

ANY FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: #8 ***Praise to the Living God*** (vs 2,3)

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

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.*

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

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

GREETERS – Anne-Marie Merrill, Sue Brown

LAY READER – Jo Worthen

GUEST MUSICIAN – Jonathan Cote

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin

AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - August 1, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Spaghetti Supper Angels- who have never missed a month in spite of this pandemic!
Christian Education's In person Puppet Show and a Craft- Wonderful experience with
Christine & her team of puppet friends!

Welcome Lucy Rose Breeden, born July 16 at 1:53am; 7 lbs 6 ozs; 20 inches long

Wonderful Celebration of life of Alice Coller! Such a lovely Child of God!

What a joy to worship together outdoors – and still welcome friends from afar
Pastor Deborah is full of joy to be among us and we welcome her back with joy.

Marilyn Ham returned to her home. She loves the cards you send.

Gratitude for members in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

For the families of loved ones who perished in the collapsed building in Surfside, FL.
For the families of those who were lost due to Hurricane Elsa.
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 in the wake of isolated violence this week.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Uncle John (Paula R)

Abi Williams and her parents Wendy and Jeff.

Benjamin Plouff, Dick's brother, suffering from cardiac issues, breathing now difficult

Judy Dobson, Rachel C's stepmom, who lost her home to a fire.

Victims of fire, floods, and hurricanes in our country and throughout our world.

Brian, friend of Wendy W. & Jeff S. Bless the friends who are ministering to him.

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

Prayers for Andrea & Tom who thank everyone for their support and prayers.

Erin H. friend of Nancy Murdock. She has a serious autoimmune disease.

Raymond C, son of Maryann's friend Linda, needs a heart transplant.

Stephen, nephew of Eileen Cox, diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma stage 3

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

United Theological College in Zimbabwe, as well as our friend Kennedy Gondongwe
Prayers for peaceful resolution to conflict situations around the world

Prayers of peace and 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 brings dinner each month.

That vaccine distribution will be increasingly possible around the world, and in the US will continue to build our common resistance. For those who continue to be taken ill and lose family members.

Southern NH Family Promise; Sonshine Soup Kitchen; Marion Gerrish; Upper Room Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church

Tim B – Health & strength and 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.