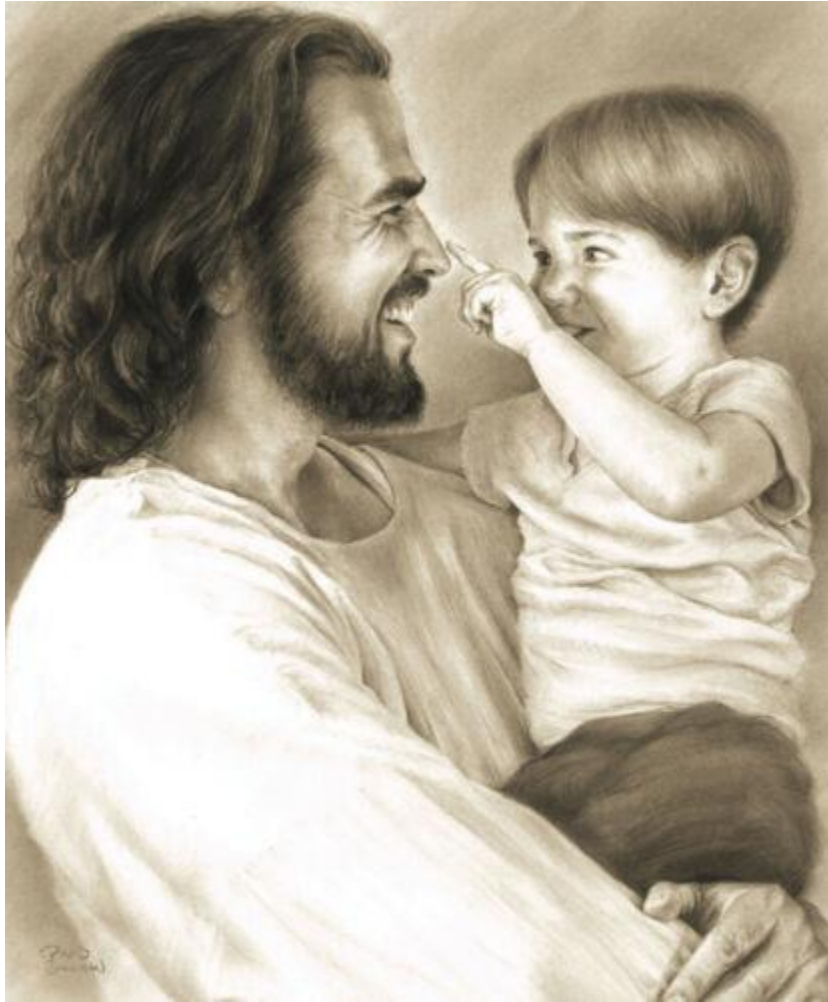


**First Parish Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**

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

July 11, 2021



Welcome to Worship!

*“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.”*

**No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey –
You are welcome among us!**

GATHERING INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC as we LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

(For the safety of our children, please mask as you sing.)

“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

One: We gather; Praise God! We gather together facing the unknown;

All: And we know you, God. We know that You hold us unfailingly.

One: No matter our circumstances You are with us.

All: We come together now God, to thank and praise You.

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

(For the safety of our children, please mask as you sing.)

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, Op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,

Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

Singing bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in You.

INVOCATION: Gracious God, make each one of us an instrument of your peace.

Weave us into a community showing forth your compassion and tenderness. Bless us

and our differences as you unite us in Your loving Spirit. Gather with us in your love

and lead us to better life the lives of fulfillment and joy that you intend. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: ***Halle, halle, hallelujah***

(For the safety of our children, please mask as you sing.)

Halle, halle, hallelujah (repeat 3 times)

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

WE SPEAK TO GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Let's sing together: ***Jesus Loves Me***
(For the safety of our children, please mask as you sing.)

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.

SUMMERTIME STORY HOUR- Children are excused at this time.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:1-12 (selected verses in The Message translation)

¹⁻² I, Paul, am under God's plan as an apostle, a special agent of Christ Jesus, writing to you faithful believers in Ephesus. I greet you with the grace and peace poured into our lives by God our (Creator) and our (Brother), Jesus Christ.

³⁻⁶ How blessed is God! And what a blessing (God) is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

¹¹⁻¹² It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

SERMON: Abundant Blessings

DOXOLOGY: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

(For the safety of our children, please mask as you sing.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

HYMN: # 506 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

(For the safety of our children, please mask as you sing.)

What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS



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

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN: #524 *This Little Light of Mine*

(For the safety of our children, please mask as you sing.)

This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine
Oh, this little light of mine I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

All around the neighborhood I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine

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
GREETERS – Rachel Cobban, Sue Lindemann
GUEST MUSICIAN – Michelle Gardner
SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban
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 - July 11, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Pastor Deborah is full of joy to be among us and we welcome her back with joy.
Marilyn Ham returned to her home on Wednesday. She loves the cards you send.
Kenny, Lynda's husband (Northern Ireland) who has recovered from a nasty infection.

It was great to see both of them in worship last Sunday.

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

Gratitude for Rev. Kennedy and our friends in Zimbabwe, for whom we pray. May they receive adequate vaccines to protect them. May God strengthen Kennedy and his congregation for these days.

Gratitude for members in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland. Their presence with us online is wonderful!

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.

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 in the wake of isolated violence this week.

Prayers for siblings in the west and northwest of the US who are facing unprecedented high temps and the threat of another intense fire season.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

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

Gert, Anne-Marie's mother, is home and doing better. Thank you for your prayers.

Brian, friend of Wendy W. & Jeff S., who continues to manage serious health concerns where he lives in Canada. 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 continued prayers.

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.

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 the families those lost and missing in the Miami building collapse.

Prayers for those living in the northwest, west and midwest who are experiencing unprecedented high temps, fires and an increased threat of fires.

Prayers for peaceful resolution to conflict situations around the world and for 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

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.