

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road, East Derry, NH 03041
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July 4, 2021



<https://www.istockphoto.com/vector/jesus-talking-with-samaritan-woman-at-the-jacobs-well-gm1280694282-378941033>

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.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please greet one another with the peace of Jesus Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Diana Sweeney)

One: Jesus met a woman by a well. They talked; he respected her. He gave her water that quenched her parched soul.

Many: We come to worship thirsty knowing it is here in this community that we can fully drink of God's living Spirit and live.

One: We are sustained by God's living Spirit.

Many: Come, let us drink together that we may in turn give water to a thirsty world.

HYMN: #592 *God of the Ages, Who with Sure Command*

God of the ages, who with sure command
Brought forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies
Our grateful songs begore your throne arise

Your purpose, just, envisions mortals free:
God, set our path toward human liberty.
Still be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay
You Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

INVOCATION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Led by Diana Sweeney, please join)

Respectful God, you are like living water for our souls. So often we turn from you, our very source of life. Forgive us we pray, and pour out your Spirit on us now. Open our minds so that the parts of ourselves that have drifted away and become dry. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (Diana Sweeney)

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. God is forever our wellspring. Go and live in peace and love. Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: *Halle, halle, hallelujah*

Halle, halle, hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah
Halle, halle, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Jesus Loves Me

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN OF PREPARATION #332 *As We Gather at Your Table*

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

WORDS OF INVITATION AND INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17: 1-7; John 4: 5- 42

Exodus 17:1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

John 4:5 So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look

around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

SERMON: Leaving Jars Behind (Rev. Linda Lea Snyder)

HYMN: #591 *This is My Song*

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams my
holy shrine:

But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high
as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf
and pine;

But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue
as mine.

O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and
for mine.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S BLESSINGS: Please 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.

A MOMENT OF APPRECIATION (Beth Hunter)

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Led by Diana Sweeney)

What we have given is God's—we are merely stewards. So let us generously share our gifts so that others might drink of God's Spirit and be full. Now is the time for our morning offering.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY BLESSING

Abundant God, give us wisdom to know that in it is in giving that we receive, that it is in being poured out that we shall be full. Receive and bless these gifts that they might strengthen our congregation, and go out to serve the needs around us. We pray it in the name of the One who first gave us life. Amen.

DOXOLOGY: #781 *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Rev. Linda Lea Snyder)

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER



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

HYMN: #610 *Mine Eyes Have Seen*

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
Who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
And has loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible swift sword;
God's truth is marching on. **Refrain**

Refrain: Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 God's truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in whose bosom that transfigures you and me;
As Christ died to make us holy, let us die to make all free;
While God is marching on. **Refrain**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *God Be With You till we meet again, from Go now in peace*

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

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
SABBATICAL COVERAGE PASTOR – The Rev. Linda Lea Snyder
GREETERS – Jack Martin, Sue Lindemann
LAY READER – Diana Sweeney
CHOIR DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST - Joan Virga
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin
AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - July 4, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

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.

Prayers of peace for Pastor Deborah as her sabbatical time draws to a close.

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

Gratitude for our Irish friends who worship with us every week. Continued joy in Kenny's recovery!

Gratitude for Rev. Kennedy and our friends in Zimbabwe, whom we pray for. 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

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

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

For Marilyn Ham who is staying at Hanover Hill Health Care Center in Manchester and doing well. She welcomes cards and notes. Please mail to her home and her daughter will take them to her.

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.

Teachers and students as they finish up the school year and move into summer activities.

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.

