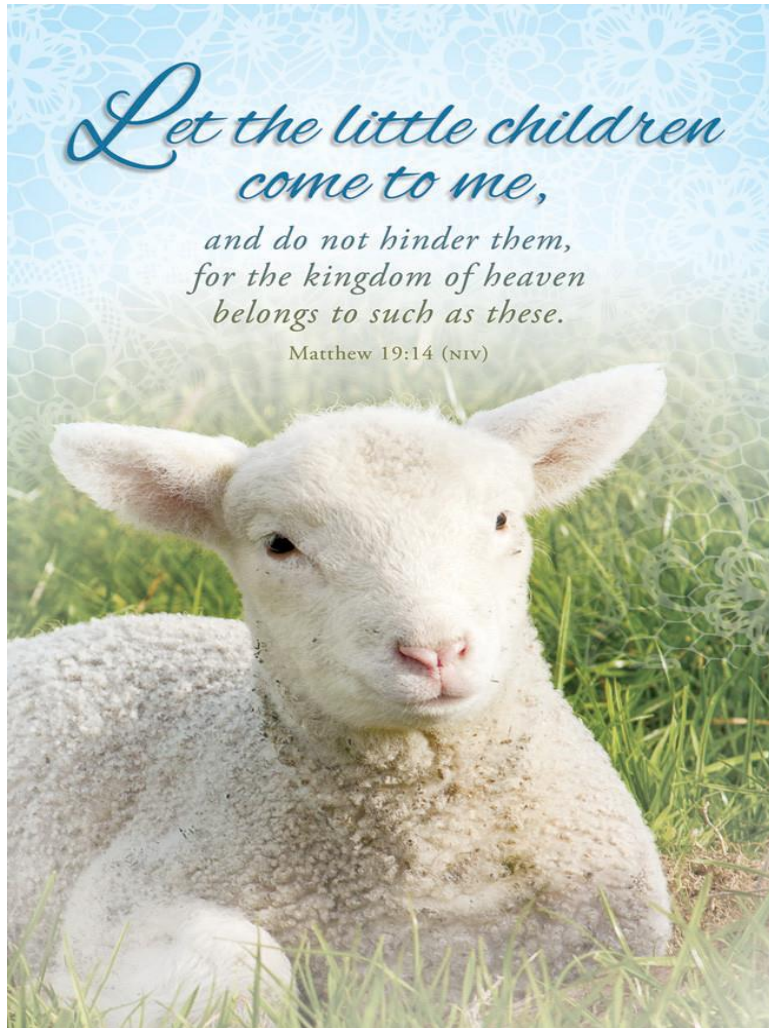


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

August 15, 2021 10:00AM



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 – No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

CALL TO WORSHIP - based upon Psalm 136 (Led by Sue Lindemann)

One: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good,
Many: God’s steadfast love endures forever.
One: Give thanks to the God of gods,
Many: God’s steadfast love endures forever.
One: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
Many: God’s steadfast love endures forever.

INVOCATION (Led by Sue Lindemann please join in.)

Heavenly Creator, our provider and protector: through your goodness, we are alive and healthy enough to gather and worship you. We praise you for all that you have given us and thank you in Jesus’ name for the sacrament of Baptism, the outward and visible sign of our faith in You. Come, Holy Spirit, anoint us with your life-giving energy – energy that we sorely need in these times. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: HYMN: #4 ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*** vs 3

You are giving and forgiving, every blessing, ever blessed
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. The promise is not only to us but also to our children. Baptism with water and the Spirit is the mark of acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, and the sign and seal of participation in God’s forgiveness. It also marks the beginning of a sacred journey in the Christian faith.

Let’s sing: ***Jesus Loves Me***

(The Deacons read the litany of Baptism)

We invite all those who wish to be baptized to come forward and bring all of their family members.

Questions of the parents, do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? **(We do.)**

To the Godparents and family of the child:

Will you say no to the powers of evil in order to receive the freedom of new life in Christ? And will you encourage him/her likewise? **(We will.)**

Will you teach him/her that he/she be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? **(We will.)**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of Jesus' teachings, to resist oppression, to show love and justice, and to share your life in Jesus Christ with others, as best you are able? **(We do.)**

To the gathered Congregation: As witnesses of this sacred moment, will you be an example of faith and compassion, and will you help this family in teaching the stories of our faith as best you are able? If you do, please affirm by saying "We so promise."
(We so promise.)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I invite you to join in one voice as we unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

PASTOR: Do you believe in God? **PEOPLE: I believe in God.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **PEOPLE: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **PEOPLE: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Blessing of the Water

Gracious God, bless by your Holy Spirit this water and create new life in these children baptized this day that they may rise in Christ.

Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

By what name is your child called?

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit be upon you – Child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church universal.

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.

And all God's people exclaim: Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 3

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then (John) consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

SERMON: "God's Beloved", interspersed with verses of the hymn:

#351 *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*

I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;

I'll be there in case you wonder off and find where demons dwell.

"God's Beloved"

When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;

You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun

"God's Beloved"

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,

I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

"God's Beloved"

I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

"God's Beloved"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S BLESSINGS WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The God of heaven and earth, of all of creation, holds each one of us in tender love and care. God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes. So, we respond to everything God is doing in the life of the world by offering a portion of what we have generously received from a loving God. With the gifts you give, we reach out to all of God's children in tender love and care. In this moment we prayerfully consider the gifts we will offer to God in gratitude and praise. As you leave our worship area, we ask that you place your gifts in the baskets provided.

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

Loving God, we present now what we have brought to your care - concerns that are both visible and invisible. The coins and paper represent our work, and express in a clear and visible way our love and thanks. And we also bring as an offering the fragile dreams and hopes that we have for one another in this life. These invisible gifts are what sustain our lives. Receive all that we have brought in love, O God. 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: #351 ***I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*** Vs 4

I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, To see your life unfold.

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 – Rachel Cobban, Sue Brown

LAY READER – Sue Lindemann

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC – 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 15, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Jonathan Cote is the newest Music Director/Choir Director/Accompanist at FPC!

John and Ginnie “tie the knot” on Saturday August 14!

Prayerful planning for our return to indoor worship!

Field trip to Keene to see two different labyrinths! Labyrinth walkers who were able to attend really had a great experience!

Times of gathering again with families and friends.

Jonathan Cote’s music at our worship services this month!

Farmer’s Market in Derry every Wednesday!

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

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

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

For the families and friends of Sue Morin, Scott Lovejoy, Marge and Glenn Allen.

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 631,008+ 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.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Uncle John (Paula R)

Abbie 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.