

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 22, 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 - Led by lay reader

One: We gather in this holy, sacred space to meet with God.

Many: We come as we are. Just as we are.

One: We come without a mask or facade of perfection, we come with our scars, the broken edges of our stories.

Many: We come to our Savior who blesses what is broken.

One: We come carrying heavy burdens, weighed down & weary.

Many: We come to our Savior who carried the cross for us that we might know peace.

One: We come through all the chaos that rages in the world & in our hearts.

Many: We come to our Savior who leads us beside quiet, still waters.

All: We come with hope, resilient hope, hope that persists & endures because Your love, Oh God endures forever. We come to worship God, our Savior.

INVOCATION (Led by lay reader please join in.)

Lord Jesus You are with us as we gather together in Your Name. You break into the broken places of our stories with hope. You are the One who shepherds us in our darkest valleys, who comforts us in our desert wilderness, who leads us beside quiet, still waters. We rest & rejoice in Your promises.

HYMN: #252 **Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us** (vs. 1, 2)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care,
in your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.

We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

SONG OF PRAISE: HYMN: #4 **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You** (vs. 4)

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.

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

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

¹⁷ Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. ²¹ For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. ²² What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves. ³⁰ For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If you are hungry, eat at home, so that when you come together, it will not be for your condemnation. About the other things I will give instructions when I come.

SERMON: A Crowded Table

HYMN: #394 ***In Christ There Is No East or West*** (vs. 2,3)

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

In Christ is neither Jew or Greek, and neither slave or free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.

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 (lay reader)

We trust by faith that God provides abundantly more than we than we can ask, think, or imagine. As God provided manna in the wilderness, as Jesus multiplied a little boy's lunch of fish & bread enough that the disciples collected the leftovers. God provides where there is lack. Faith is always the surprising, miraculous, wondrous gift of God. So we give in faith, blessed to be a blessing to the Church, to the world. Amen.

GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CHILD OF GOD – Jo Worthen

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 lay reader, please join in.)

We commit this offering to Your kingdom come here on earth, to all those in Your care. That we might see compassion, kindness & courage shine the light of Christ in this community. For yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



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

ANY FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: #436 ***God of Grace and God of Glory*** (vs. 1, 2)

God of grace and God of glory, on your people
pour your power; crown your ancient church's story;

bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail
the Savior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

BLESSING

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
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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 Lindemann
MUSIC DIRECTOR – 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 22, 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.
Christian Education's In person Puppet Show and a Craft- Wonderful experience with
Christine & her team of puppet friends!
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.