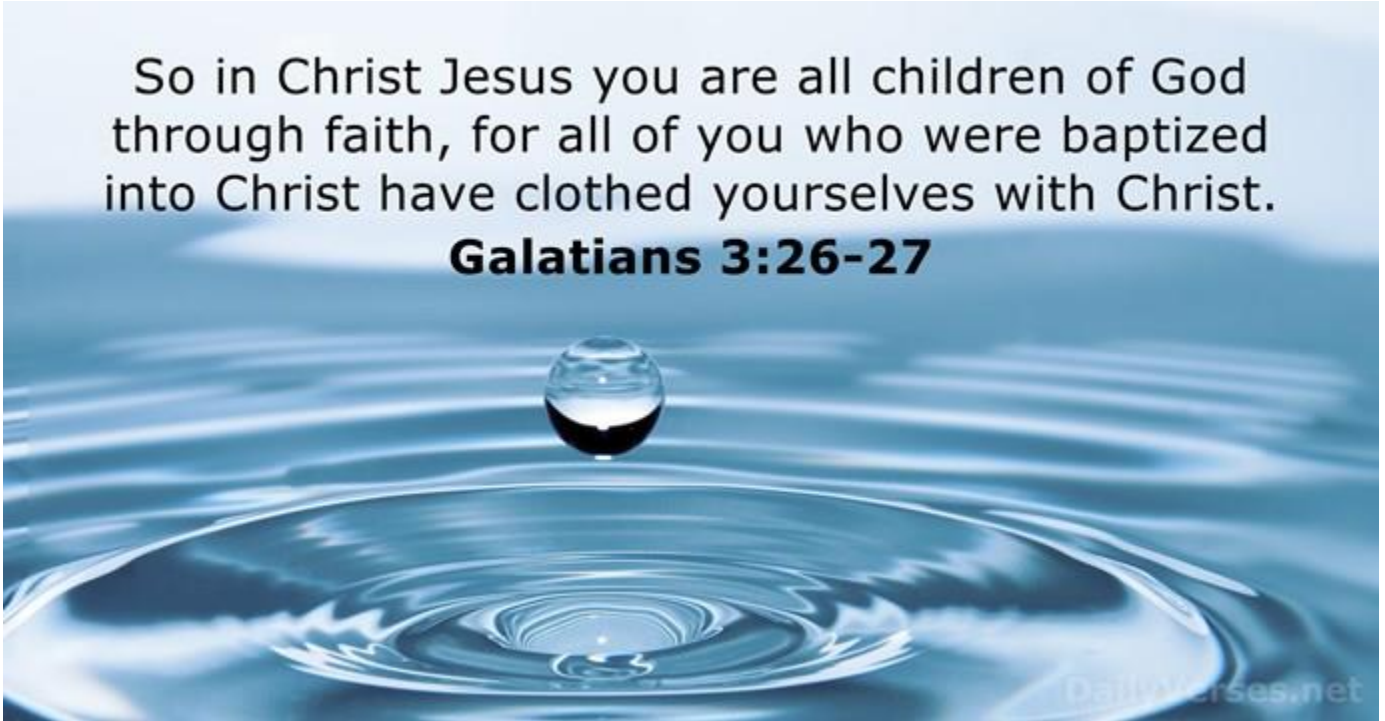


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041  
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

**August 8, 2021**

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God  
through faith, for all of you who were baptized  
into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**Galatians 3:26-27**



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 46 (Led by Sue Brown)

One: God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Many: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

One: though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

Many: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

### HYMN: #325 ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** vs. 3,4

Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you, blessing you in Jesus' name.

Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

### INVOCATION (Led by Sue Brown please join in.)

Let us join together to worship the God of our ancestors, the God of our children. We are so very grateful for this break in the “ordinary” – a time of the sacred extraordinary in God’s Presence. Come, Holy Spirit, anoint us with your life-giving Spirit and imbue us with a Spirit that we greatly need in these times. Amen.

### SONG OF PRAISE: HYMN: #4 ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*** vs. 2

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays.  
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

## 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:** <sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

SERMON: God's Beloved

HYMN: #328 *Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed* vs. 1,3,4

Wonder of wonders, here revealed; God's covenant with us is sealed.

And long before we know or pray, God's love enfolds us every day.

This child of God, though young or old, we welcome now to Christ's fold,  
To know with us God's loving care; here all our joys and sorrows share.

Now we our vow of faith renew, stretch wide our sights to global view,  
And claim with Christians far and near a larger family held dear.

## 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 (Sue Brown)

God's beautiful creation overflows with water, sunlight, and the rich, dark soil to grow our food. When we share the fruits of this earth, there is more than enough for all: there is a table of plenty set by a God who loves every one of us. Our financial gifts support our mission to God's children near and far. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

## GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CHILD OF GOD – Jack Martin

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 Sue Brown, please join in.)

"I tell you the truth, whatever you have done for one of the least of my sisters or brothers, you have done it for me." Help us, Faithful God, to see you in the needs that confront us daily. Help us to see you in those who are weak, and lonely, and hungry, and afraid. And as we offer ourselves to those who need love may we know that we are touching you. 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: #354 *God When I Came Into This Life* vs. 1,3

God, when I came into this life you called me by my name;  
today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,  
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

## 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 – Jack Martin, Sue Lindemann  
LAY READER – Sue Brown  
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 8, 2021*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

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)  
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.