

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

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY October 3, 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 THOUGHT by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

“Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God,  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;  
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries.”

**MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT**

## WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP - (Led by lay reader)

One: The Israelites in Ancient days suffered under hideous slavery.

**Many: God heard their cries and prepared a way out of their misery.**

One: Moses heard God's voice coming from the blazing bush.

**Many: May we hear God's voice amid the cacophony of culture around us.**

### INVOCATION (Led by lay reader please join in.)

Come among us now, O God of Moses, God of every continent and every denomination. We pray that you would make yourself known to us in whatever way we can comprehend. Whatever our worldly connection, may we feel thoroughly connected to you on this World Communion Sunday, when we are most attentive to your children throughout the globe. Amen.

### HYMN: #18 **Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer** (vs. 1)

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;

I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand:

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,

Feed me till I want no more.

### CALL TO CONFESSION (lay reader)

We try to honor God and we try to do good. We have good intentions. And in our humanness, we fall short and hurt comes out of our actions even when we are unaware. Let us confess these failings.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Led by lay reader, please join in.)

God of wonder, God of burning bush, God – the great "I am":

We come to you with humility and openness. Our thoughts and our deeds sometimes fail to accomplish the good we intend. We are not always eloquent and need your guidance. Guide us to discern Your will and what You would have us say and do. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (lay reader)

God hears our groans and delivers us yet again – and always. Amen.

### SONG OF PRAISE: **Halle, halle, halle-lujah!**

## GOD'S YOUNGER DISCIPLES

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE **Jesus Loves Me**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN: #329 ***Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts*** (vs. 1,3,5)

Jesus, the Joy of loving hearts, Fount of our lives, And light of all,  
From every bliss that earth imparts, We turn unfilled, to hear your call.

We taste of you, the living Bread, And long to feast upon you still;  
We drink of you, the Fountain-head, Our thirsty souls from you we fill.

O Jesus, every with us stay! Make all our moments calm and bright,  
Oh, chase the cloud of sin away, Shed o'er the world your holy light.

### OUR SACRED STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and 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.**

SHARING the MEAL (We will take the bread together to represent that we are One in Christ. We will take the juice as the Spirit moves us to represent that maintain our individuality in the eyes of God.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

**SCRIPTURE: Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17**

<sup>23</sup>After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. <sup>24</sup>God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>25</sup>God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

<sup>3:1</sup>Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." <sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup>He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” <sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

<sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

<sup>4:10</sup>But Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” <sup>11</sup>Then the Lord said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup>Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.” <sup>13</sup>But he said, “O my Lord, please send someone else.” <sup>14</sup>Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “What of your brother Aaron, the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. <sup>15</sup>You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you what you shall do. <sup>16</sup>He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. <sup>17</sup>Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.”

SERMON: Holy Ground

## **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)

God provides in abundance for our physical, emotional and spiritual needs so that we may in turn share of our bounty with others. Let us give generously with gratitude.

## DOXOLOGY: #282 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Every time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart I will pray.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Led by lay reader, please join in.)

Holy "I Am" bless the gifts that we gather and redistribute to your children in need. Bless the giving hearts and the generous hands. May their work be ample and abundant. We pray in Your holy name. 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: #12 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (vs. 1, 3)

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known,  
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne;  
All life is but a gift from you is ever in your care,  
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE: #438 *When Peace, Like a River*

When peace like a river, upholds me each day,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, You have taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

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  
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 - OCTOBER 3, 2021*

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Preparations are under way to resume in person worship  
Pastor Kathy's Installation as Pastor and Teacher at Hampstead UCC  
Charlotte's Baptism!! Welcome to all of her family members.  
It was wonderful to celebrate Derryfest again!  
Derry Public Library was named New Hampshire's best library by the NH Library Trustees Association!  
An awesome Labor Day Weekend on Star Island with UCC'ers from New England  
Becky & Darryl Fleury's granddaughter, Margaret June "Maisie", born on Sept. 1st to Matt & Leigh!  
United Theological College in Harare, Zimbabwe received our donation for food.  
Labyrinth field trip to Windham, followed by a trip to Moo's!  
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.  
Gratitude for members in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland.

### **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

For the Goffstown (MVMS) Mountain View Middle School community (An 8th grade girl committed suicide 9/30)  
For Rev. Holly Tomilson, whose husband Jim was killed in a tragic accident on 9/16  
For the families of the soldiers lost in Afghanistan  
For the family of Matthew Foster, a senior at UVM, who died on July 19.  
For Kennedy G and his whole family: Kennedy's sister died from Covid.  
For the families of those who were lost due to Hurricane Henri.  
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) continued prayers

Steph Dodd, Pastor Deborah's daughter, said goodbye to her beloved fur baby, Seth. Woody, who lost almost everything in his home.

Victims of flooding and fire

Gail & George, Jo's friends, going through a difficult time with age related changes.

Jo's sister Sue, in the hospital awaiting nursing home placement. Her husband died recently. Sue is very distraught and afraid for what her future holds.

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.

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:** Priscilla with colon cancer; Tracey with aggressive cancer who has 3 children/ only 46 years old; 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 war-torn and violence-ridden areas of the world, e.g. Afghanistan

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

United Theological College in Zimbabwe, as well as our friend Kennedy Gondongwe

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.