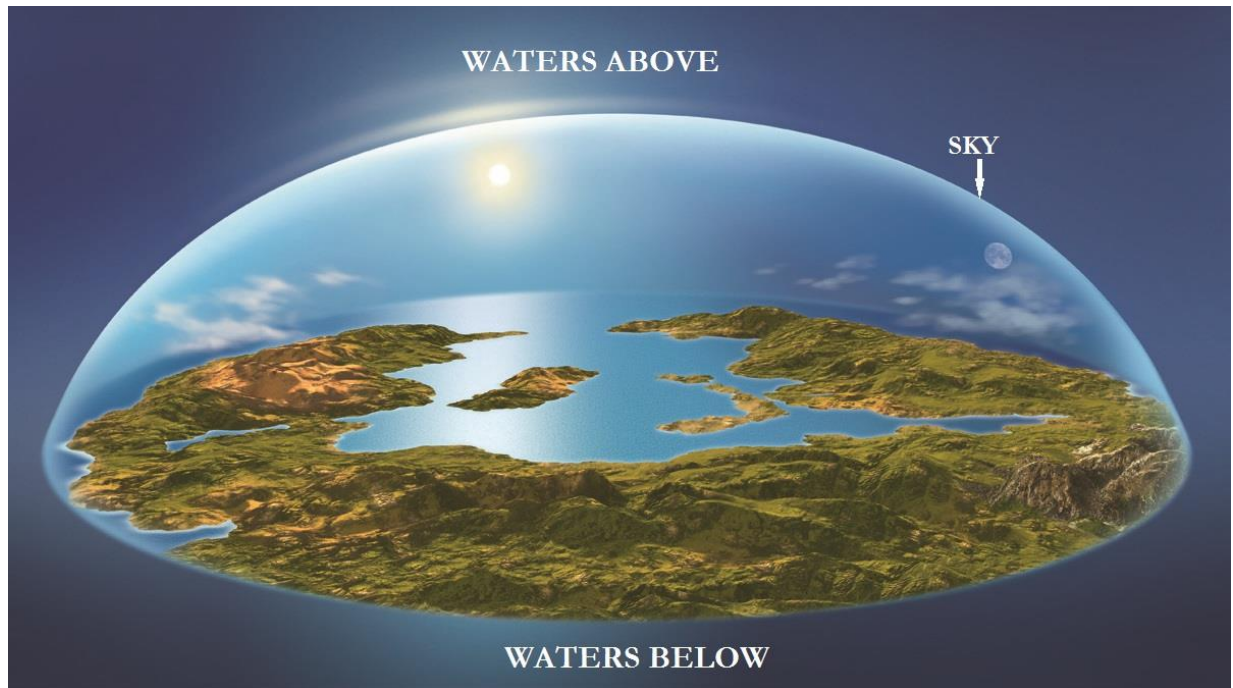


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
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Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

September 12, 2021 - Creation



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 AND A MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

CALL TO WORSHIP – (Led by lay reader.)

One: The powerful voice of God created all worlds.

Many: The same voice calls us to worship.

One: Come before God's glorious majesty.

Many: God meets you where you are.

One: Come together with gratitude for Creation.

Many: Let us gather to worship the One who creates even still.

HYMN: #28 *For the Beauty of Earth* (vs. 1,2)

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, Over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

INVOCATION (Led by Reni Harnden please join in.)

In the beginning, O God, you fashioned a universe. Every star and planet; every
from of seed and fruit; every single tree. And you saw that it was good. And on this
day – in this moment – you wait to greet us and to be greeted by us. Make us new
today, heavenly Creator. Create within us a freshness and curiosity with which to
see the world and empower us for faithful, grateful living. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: HYMN #591 *This Is My Song* (vs.2)

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 HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: **Genesis 1:1-19** (Please be prepared to speak the underlined words.)

¹ In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

SERMON: “Transforming Wind From God”

HYMN: #12 ***I Sing the Mighty Power of God*** (vs. 1, 2)

I sing the mighty power of God That made the mountains rise,
That spreads 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.

I sing the goodness of our God That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where’re I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

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 (Reni Harnden)

We receive without even noticing the wonder of it all: our breath, our miraculous bodies, our privilege, our humanity. We have nothing that wasn't ordained by God as gift. Let us response with generous gratitude.

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 Reni Harnden please join in.)

Wonderful and wonder-filled God, all that we have received has come from You pouring out Your abundance. We share what we have out of this awareness that we have. We share what we have so that others may know Your Presence, Your love and Your holy "hesed". Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

ANY FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: #42 ***O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*** (vs. 1,4)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing the triumph of God's grace!

Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.

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
LAY READER – Reni Harnden
GREETERS – Sue Lindemann, Sue Brown
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 - September 12, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

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.
Spaghetti Supper – it is of note that the First Parish spaghetti angels have NEVER
missed a month of providing delicious dinners to those in need!!! Thank you!
Labyrinth field trip to Windham, followed by a trip to Moo's!
Jonathan Cote is the new Music Director at FPC!
What a joy to worship together outdoors 8.15 and baptize three children!
John and Ginnie “tied the knot” on Saturday August 14!
Prayerful planning for our return to indoor worship – whenever it may come!
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!
Gratitude for members in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

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

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 Danganvura – 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.