

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041  
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**September 26, 2021**



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**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 come here to worship our God: the One who blesses us with abundant gifts.

**Many: God's goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our lives.**

One: We are God's sheep, and God's love shepherds us.

**Many: God's goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.**

One: We come here to give thanks for all of God's blessings.

**Many: God's goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.**

One: Let us worship our God!

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

Gracious and Loving God, like the blessings you bestowed upon our spiritual ancestors, you provide us with blessings of all kinds, and we are grateful. You are our refuge and our strength in times of trial, just as you were for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and we are grateful. Be with us now as we bless each other by your presence, together with you, O God. Amen.

### HYMN: #459 ***Come, O Fount Of Every Blessing*** (vs. 1 & 2)

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, every turning, God will guide me safely home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.

Came to rescue from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

### 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 27: 1-4; 15-23; 28: 10-17

<sup>27:1</sup> When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. <sup>3</sup> Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. <sup>4</sup> Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die."

<sup>27:15</sup> Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob; <sup>16</sup> and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. <sup>17</sup> Then she handed the savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob. <sup>18</sup> So he went in to his father, and said, "My father"; and he said, "Here I am; who are you, my son?" <sup>19</sup> Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me." <sup>20</sup> But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success." <sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." <sup>22</sup> So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." <sup>23</sup> He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

<sup>28:10</sup> Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup> And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; <sup>14</sup> and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup> Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

SERMON: Count Your Blessings

**HYMN: #500 *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder***

We are climbing Jacob's ladder, We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, bearers of the cross.

Ev'ry round goes higher, higher, Ev'ry round goes higher, higher,  
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher, bearers of the cross.

Rise, shine, give God glory, Rise, shine, give God glory,  
Rise, shine, give God glory, bearers of the cross.

**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)**

Throughout time and space people have considered the abundant gifts of God and offered a portion back to God's work here. Let us consider the abundance and let us give abundantly in return.

**GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CHILD OF GOD – Margie Ives**

**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.)**

Gracious God,  
we bring these, our offerings, to you from what we have and what we are.  
Bless these gifts, that they may be used to show your love and care for all people.  
As you blessed Jacob and all of our spiritual ancestors, bless us with the joy that comes from giving of ourselves freely, out of love for another.  
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: #393 Blessed Be the Tie That Binds (vs. 1 & 4)**

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

### **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 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, Katie Cobban

**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 19, 2021***

### **PRAYERS OF JOY**

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.

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 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.