

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
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October 10, 2021

God Provides Manna



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

Jesus Loves Me

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – (Led by Rachel Cobban)

One: God spoke and worlds came into being.

Many: This same voice calls us to worship.

One: Come into God's Presence.

Many: God awaits us with openness and love.

One: Come together with gratitude for God's provisions.

Many: Let us gather in thanksgiving for God's goodness and grace.

HYMN: #522 ***I Love to Tell the Story*** (vs. 1)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.

INVOCATION (Led by Rachel Cobban. Please join in.)

You appeared to Moses in the burning bush, Oh God, and to the hungry Israelites you provided food for their empty bellies. We are a different kind of empty this morning, God. We need your Manna of Life to sustain and empower us in this lifetime. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Amen.

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 16:1-18 (International Children's Bible)

^{16:1} Then the whole Israelite community left Elim. They came to the Desert of Sin. This place was between Elim and Sinai. They came to this place on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left Egypt. ² Then the whole Israelite community grumbled to Moses and Aaron in the desert. ³ The Israelites said to them, "It would have been better if the Lord had killed us in the land of Egypt. There we had meat to eat. We had all the food we wanted. But you have brought us into this desert. You will starve us to death here."

⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will cause food to fall like rain from the sky. This food will be for all of you. Every day the people must go out and gather what they need for that day. I will do this to see if the people will do what I teach them. ⁵ On the sixth day of each week, they are to gather twice as much as they gather on other days. Then they are to prepare it."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites: "This evening you will know that the Lord is the one who brought you out of Egypt. ⁷ Tomorrow morning you will see the greatness of the Lord. He has heard you grumble against him. We are nothing. You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord." ⁸ And Moses said, "Each evening the Lord will give you meat to eat. And every morning he will give you all

the bread you want. He will do this because he has heard you grumble against him. You are not grumbling against Aaron and me. You are grumbling against the Lord.”
⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Speak to the whole community of the Israelites. Say to them, ‘Meet together in front of the Lord because he has heard your grumbings.’”

¹⁰ So Aaron spoke to the whole community of the Israelites. While he was speaking, they looked toward the desert. There the greatness of the Lord appeared in a cloud.

¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, ¹² “I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel. So tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat. And every morning you will eat all the bread you want. Then you will know I am the Lord, your God.’”

¹³ That evening, quail came and covered the camp. And in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost were on the desert ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they asked each other, “**What is that?**” They asked this question because they did not know what it was.

So Moses told them, “This is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. ¹⁶ The Lord has commanded, ‘Each one of you must gather what he needs. Gather about two quarts for every person in your family.’”

¹⁷ So the people of Israel did this. Some people gathered much, and some gathered little. ¹⁸ Then they measured it. The person who gathered more did not have too much. The person who gathered less did not have too little. Each person gathered just as much as he needed.

SERMON: Sacred Mathematics

HYMN: #332 ***As We Gather at Your Table*** (vs. 1, 2)

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

RESPONDING TO GOD’S BLESSINGS: If you are joining us virtually, please use the next few moments to share joys and concerns in the comment or chat function. Our services are recorded. Please use first names. God knows who you mean.

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Rachel Cobban)

We are blessed to have so much! We are blessed to have enough. Even when we think we are running out, something happens, and we have enough. Let us give out of our gratitude and abundance.

BLESSING THE DIAPERS and those who need them!

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 Rachel Cobban. Please join in.)

Holy God, we ask your blessing upon these gifts that we have gathered. May they multiply and astound us so that our accounts show that we have enough to do the work to which you call us here and beyond. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

HYMN: #519 ***Not My Brother, Not My Sister*** (vs. 1, 4)

Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.

Refrain:

It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer; (repeat)

Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God,
standing in the need of prayer; (repeat)

[Refrain]

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE followed by
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: #522 ***I Love to Tell the Story*** (vs. 3)

I love to tell the story. It's pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word.

Refrain: I love to tell the story, and when I am in glory,
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *When Peace, Like a River*

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 – Rachel Cobban
GREETERS – Sue Lindemann (Zoom & Facebook)
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 10, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Gratitude for in-person worship.

Gratitude for members and friends in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland.

Courtney married Andrew right here at First Parish! Bountiful blessings.

So much joy and gratitude for Paul and his tech helpers!

Derry Public Library was named New Hampshire's best library by the NH Library Trustees Association!

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

The family of Grace Marusarz (Pastor Deborah's sister) who died from cancer on 10/6.

Friends of Tommie Pitts, who passed away suddenly last week.

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 the families of those who were lost due to recent hurricanes and fires.

Families of the 703,000+ people who have died in the US due to COVID.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Thavy, friend of the Guerrin family, during her high risk pregnancy.

Uncle John (Paula R) continued prayers

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
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

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

Law Enforcement, fire fighters and other protectors of our safety and democracy;
especially all first responders, active troops, and National Guard Military.

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 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

People of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors.