

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 17, 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 MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

Jesus Loves Me

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – (Led by Katie Cobban)

One: Alone, at night - God called Samuel.

Many: Together, this morning - this same voice calls us.

One: God calls us to come into God’s Presence to worship.

Many: God accompanies us with compassion and affection.

One: Join together in gratitude for God’s holy “hesed”.

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

HYMN: #495 ***Called as Partners in Christ's Service*** (vs. 1,3)

Called as partners in Christ's service, Called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, Side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring To fulfil God's chosen end.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, In a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, Breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, Words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action Make us colleagues, free and fair.

INVOCATION (Led by Katie Cobban please join in.)

You called Samuel from his bed and you saw justice for Eli's transgressions. You call us and coax us to repentance for our transgressions. Lead us in justice and in truth but most of all, lead us in compassion and care. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Amen.

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 3:1-21 (International Children's Bible) **BOLD – Everyone!**

^{3:1} The boy Samuel served the Lord under Eli. In those days the Lord did not speak directly to people very often. There were very few visions.

² Eli's eyes were so weak he was almost blind. One night he was lying in bed. ³ Samuel was also in bed in the Lord's Holy Tent. The Ark of the Covenant was in the Holy Tent. God's lamp was still burning.

⁴ Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, **"I am here!"**

⁵ He ran to Eli and said, **"I am here. You called me."**

But Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." So, Samuel went back to bed.

⁶ The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel again went to Eli and said, **"I am here. You called me."**

Again Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."

⁷ Samuel did not yet know the Lord. The Lord had not spoken directly to him yet.

⁸ The Lord called Samuel for the third time. Samuel got up and went to Eli.

He said, **"I am here. You called me."**

Then Eli realized the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ So he told Samuel, "Go to bed. If he calls you again, say,

"Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening."

So Samuel went and lay down in bed.

¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there. He called as he had before. He said, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said,

"Speak, Lord. I am your servant, and I am listening."

¹¹ The Lord said to Samuel, “See, I am going to do something in Israel. It will shock those who hear about it. ¹² At that time I will do to Eli and his family everything I promised. I will not stop until I have finished. ¹³ I told Eli I would punish his family forever. I will do it because Eli knew his sons were evil. They spoke against me, but he did not control them. ¹⁴ So here is what I promised Eli’s family: ‘Your guilt will never be removed by sacrifice or offering.’”

¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the Tent of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli about the vision. ¹⁶ But Eli said to him, “Samuel, my son!” Samuel answered, “**I am here.**”

¹⁷ Eli asked, “What did the Lord say to you? Don’t hide it from me. May God punish you terribly if you hide from me anything he said to you.” ¹⁸ So Samuel told Eli everything. He did not hide anything from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord. Let him do what he thinks is best.”

¹⁹ The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up. He did not let any of Samuel’s messages fail to come true. ²⁰ Then all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, knew Samuel was a prophet of the Lord. ²¹ And the Lord continued to show himself to Samuel at Shiloh. He also showed himself to Samuel through his word.

SERMON: Wholly, Holy Listening

HYMN: ***Here I Am*** (selected verses)

I the Lord of sea and sky; I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin; My hand will save
I who made the stars of night; I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord, If you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart**

I, the Lord of wind and flame; I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them; My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide; 'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them; Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)

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 (Katie Cobban)

God calls us to share what we have been given and to serve those in need. It is a privilege and an honor. Let us be led to give a portion of our bounty – giving graciously and gratefully in God's name.

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 Katie Cobban please join in.)

Giving God, may the gifts that we offer to You here be blessed and multiplied so that your children near and far feel the touch of Your compassion and the Presence of Your love. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

HYMN: ***Here I Am*** (Refrain on previous page.)

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: #575 ***O for a World*** (vs. 1,2)

O for a world where everyone; Respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done; With justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared; And misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared; Equality achieved.

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 – Katie 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 17, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

So many diapers collected going to needy families with young children!
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; 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.