

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 24, 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 – (Based on Psalm 51) (Led by Cyndi Gray)

One: The psalmist David cried out to God to create within him a clean heart.

Many: He asked God to put a new and righteous spirit within him.

One: He asked God to be present to him and restore him.

Many: We know that God heard David’s cries and delivered him.

One: We will come together with gratitude for God’s saving grace.

Many: Let us sing aloud of God’s deliverance.

HYMN: #383 Come, **Let Us Join with Faithful Souls** (vs. 1, 2)

Come, let us join with faithful souls our song of faith to raise;
One family in heart are we, and one the God we praise.

Faithful are all who love the truth and dare perfect truth proclaim,
Who steadfast stand at God's right hand and glorify God's name.

INVOCATION (Led by Cyndi Gray please join in.)

You called Moses in spite of his resistance. You called Samuel in spite of his age.
You called David in spite of his inequity. You call us in spite of whatever reason we
give to resist you. Be with us now, Oh God. We are here! Amen.

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (The Message) Everyone read bold please.

^{16:1} God addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very king I want among his sons."

²⁻³ **"I can't do that,"** said Samuel. "Saul will hear about it and kill me."

God said, "Take a heifer with you and announce, 'I've come to lead you in worship of God, with this heifer as a sacrifice.' Make sure Jesse gets invited. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint."

⁴ Samuel did what God told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the town fathers greeted him, but apprehensively. **"Is there something wrong?"**

⁵ "Nothing's wrong. I've come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of God. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship." He made sure Jesse and his sons were also consecrated and called to worship. ⁶ When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Here he is! God's anointed!"

⁷ But God told Samuel, **"Looks aren't everything.** Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart." ⁸ Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, **"This man isn't God's choice either."** ⁹ Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, **"No, this man isn't either."**

¹⁰ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, **"God hasn't chosen any of these."** ¹¹ Then he asked Jesse, "Is this it? Are there no more sons?" "Well, yes, there's the runt. But he's out tending the sheep." Samuel ordered Jesse, **"Go get him. We're not moving from this spot until he's here."** ¹² Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking. God said, **"Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one."**

¹³ Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of God entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life.
Samuel left and went home to Ramah.

(Here ends this morning's reading. May God bless our understanding.)

REFLECTION by DIANA SWEENEY, Member in Discernment

Special Music: ***Make Me a Channel for Your Peace*** sung by Jonathan Cote

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 (Cyndi Gray)

God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these gifts with others in our community and beyond. In this offering we have the opportunity to return to God an eager response to all we have received.

GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CHILD OF GOD – Sue Lindemann

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 Cyndi Gray please join in.)

Loving God, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our financial gifts. All this we offer now for your blessing, that we may continue to dwell in the light of Your generous Spirit.
Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

HYMN: #89 *Awake, Awake to Love and Work* (Vs. 1, 2)

Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
The fields are wet with diamond dew; The worlds awake to cry
their praises to the Fount of Life; Christ Jesus passes by.

Come, let your voice be one with theirs, Shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set your soul ablaze.

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: #73 ***Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*** (Vs 1, 2)

Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

BLESSING

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.

WELCOME, DIANA SWEENEY, MEMBER IN DISCERNMENT, today's worship leader

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH - Members of the Congregation

SENIOR PASTOR AND TEACHER - The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

LAY READER – Cyndi Gray

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 24, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church has been in touch with us after many months of silence. They hope to reconnect with us!

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

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

Nancy's friend Erin H. has a debilitating medical condition which caused her boys to be taken from her.
Thavy, friend of the Guerrin family, during her high-risk pregnancy.
Gail & George, Jo's friends, going through a difficult time with age related changes.
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: Janice P needs another round of chemo; 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; Bb 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 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.