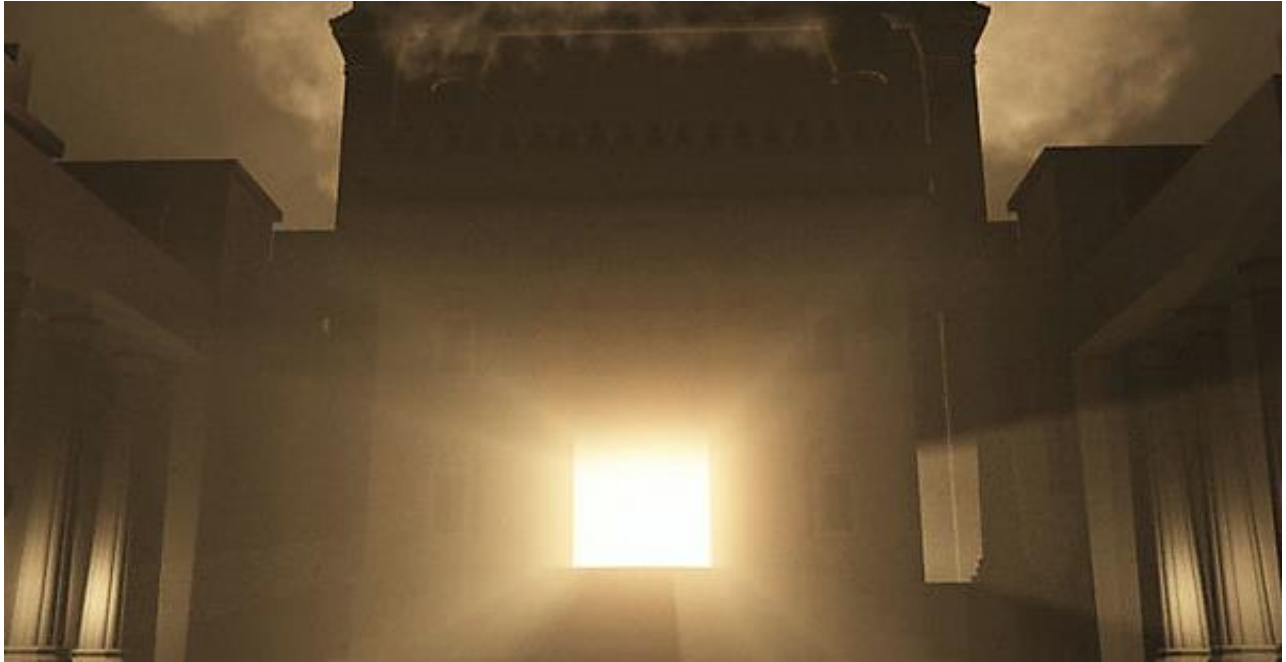


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

October 31, 2021 All Saints Day Celebration



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 (Jesus Loves Me) AND LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP – Based on Psalm 84 (Led by lay reader, Dee Deranian)

One: ¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
² (Our) soul(s) long, indeed (they) faint for the courts of the Lord;
(our) hearts and (our) flesh sing(s) for joy to the living God.

**Many: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
(our) King and (our) God.**

ALL: ⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. *Selah*

HYMN: #13 O ***My Soul, Bless Your Creator*** (Vs.1, 4)

O my soul, bless your Redeemer; all within me bless God's Name;
bless the Savior, and forget not all God's mercies to proclaim.

As it was without beginning, so it lasts without an end;
to their children's children ever shall God's righteousness extend.

INVOCATION - Based on Psalm 84 (Led by Dee Deranian please join in.)

Holy God, a day in your Presence is better than a thousand elsewhere.
Like David, we would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God than live in
the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; bestowing favor
and honor. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Be with us in this sacred place. Amen.

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13 (The Message)

^{5: 1-4} Hiram king of Tyre sent ambassadors to Solomon when he heard that he had been crowned king in David's place. Hiram had loved David his whole life. Solomon responded, saying, "You know that David my father was not able to build a temple in honor of God because of the wars he had to fight on all sides, until God finally put them down. But now God has provided peace all around—no one against us, nothing at odds with us.

⁵⁻⁶ "Now here is what I want to do: Build a temple in honor of God, *my* God, following the promise that God gave to David my father, namely, 'Your son whom I will provide to succeed you as king, he will build a house in my honor.' And here is how you can help: Give orders for cedars to be cut from the Lebanon forest; my loggers will work alongside yours and I'll pay your men whatever wage you set. We both know that there is no one like you Sidonians for cutting timber."

^{8 1-2} Bringing all this to a climax, King Solomon called in the leaders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the family patriarchs, to bring up the Chest of the Covenant of God from Zion, the City of David. And they came, all Israel before King Solomon in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month, for the great autumn festival.

³⁻⁵ With all Israel's leaders present, the priests took up the Chest of God and carried up the Chest and the Tent of Meeting and all the holy vessels that went with the Tent. King Solomon and the entire congregation of Israel were there at the Chest worshipping and sacrificing huge numbers of sheep and cattle—so many that no one could keep track.

⁶⁻⁹ Then the priests brought the Chest of the Covenant of God to its place in the Inner Sanctuary, the Holy of Holies, under the wings of the cherubim. The outspread wings of the cherubim stretched over the Chest and its poles. The poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the entrance to the Inner

Sanctuary, but were not noticeable farther out. They're still there today. There was nothing in the Chest but the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb where God made a covenant with Israel after bringing them up from Egypt.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ When the priests left the Holy Place, a cloud filled The Temple of God. The priests couldn't carry out their priestly duties because of the cloud—the glory of God filled The Temple of God!

¹²⁻¹³ Then Solomon spoke: God has told us that he lives in the dark where no one can see him; I've built this splendid Temple, O God, to mark your invisible presence forever.

SERMON: Perfect Presence of God

HYMN: #17 ***To You O God, All Creatures Sing*** (Vs. 1, 2)

To you, O God, all creatures sing, and all creation, everything sings your praises, alleluia!

Your burning sun with golden beam, your silver moon with softer gleam sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your wind that blows the tempest by, your clouds that sail across the sky sing your praises, alleluia!

Your morning rises with a song, and lights of evening sing along, sing your praises, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

Our lives are full and our cups overflow with the abundant blessing. Help us to focus our attention on the wealth that we enjoy and carve out a portion to those in need. Let us give with grateful hearts.

If you are joining us virtually, please 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.

GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CHILD OF GOD – Dee Deranian

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 lay reader, 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 more than enough to do the work to which you call us here and beyond. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYERS

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, 2)

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

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

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 – Dee Deranian

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 31, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

The gorgeous glass garden sculptures/totems are beautiful!

Beautiful flooring and fresh paint – inside and out!!! Gratitude to Facilities and to the BAC for their hard work!

Handsome chairs for Pastor Deborah's office and the foyer – thank you, Breedens!!

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

Karen Wilson, her siblings and ALL the family on the loss of Karen's mother.

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 **740,000+** people who have died in the US due to COVID. (10/29/2021)

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Rick, son of Dick Crow, who is hospitalized in Annapolis with kidney failure.

Nancy's friend Erin H.- Prayers that her medical condition will improve enough that her boys will be able to return to live with 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.