

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

January 16, 2022

In Scripture: Jesus in the Temple

In Culture: Martin Luther King Sunday



ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey!!!

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

WELCOME

SONG OF PRAISE: ***He's Got the Whole World In His Hands***

CALL TO WORSHIP LITANY: in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, his legacy and his dream for a better world through living a life of love and peace.

One: God, we are living inside your dream: the dream of creation,

Many: The dream of time and space, The dream of humanity.

One: You dreamed us up

Many: And we're all yours.

One: The dream of the Kingdom of God;

Many: In which all is done according to the law of Love;

One: In which exploitation, inequality and poverty are unheard of;

Many: In which peace is normal;

One: In which separation from you and each other is an illusion;

Many: In which Christ is King:

One: This is the dream we are living for. This is the dream we must live out.

Many: When it seems just beyond our reach - Love will bridge the gap.

One: When it seems unimaginable - Love will give us imagination.

Many: When it seems impossible - Love will make a way.

One: Help us to bravely step out now,

Many: Into the unknown

One: Into the dreamed-of future

Many: Into the beauty of now

One: For you are Love,

Many: And your dream is alive in our hearts.

All: Amen

INVOCATION (lay reader)

Come O God be with us as we acknowledge the blessings of life in you. Amen.

HYMN: "***Lift every voice and sing***" (vs. 1)

Lift every voice and sing Till earth and heaven ring

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening skies; Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun

Let us march on till victory is won

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-25

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

²³ When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

SERMON: Sacred Space, Sacred Place, Sacred You

HYMN: “***Lift every voice and sing***” (vs. 2)

Stony the road we trod Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died; Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

When our riches increase, we are tempted to put our trust and confidence in them. But riches are not meant to satisfy us. They are placed in our hands that we might accomplish some good purpose. Giving through the church grants us that opportunity.

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.

MISSION MOMENT – 5 FOR 5 – Nancy Murdock

SERVING ON THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Holly Gorgol

DOXOLOGY: ***Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Led by lay reader, please join in.)

God of steadfast love, we pray that you will love the world through the stewardship – financial and other - that we dedicate in this moment. We pray that your work of transformation will be carried into the world by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads. As individuals, we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to be your hands and feet in this broken world of ours. Amen.

HYMN: “***Lift every voice and sing***” vs 3

God of our weary years; God of our silent tears
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way

Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand; May we forever stand
True to our God; True to our native land

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER,
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: Reprise: ***He's Got the Whole World In His Hands***

BENEDICTION

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 – Cyndi Gray
GREETERS – Sue Lindemann (Remote)
MUSICIAN – Jonathan Cote
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin
AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - January 16, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

The staff was filled with joy for the generous monetary gift to each of us for Christmas!
Thank you for allowing us to serve you and thank you for seeing how much we care.

Thank you to everyone who pledged and to those people who have increased their pledge! Technology allows us to stay connected during this pandemic! **Gratitude to lay** leaders who stepped up last week when Pastor Deborah was quarantined with Covid; **Beautiful Christmas Eve Service**- many thanks to the special music from Debbie Gline Allen, Eric Stern and everyone who participated! The Meetinghouse lit up at night is AMAZING! (Thank you, Paul L) “Card Angels” sent nearly two hundred cards of care to staff at Elliot Hospital. FPC received a thoughtful Christmas donation from the Derry Village Rotary. Advent workshop was a wonderful experience for all! (Thank you, Christine and CE) Christmas decorations were a hit! Many enjoyed “new to them” treasures! “Card Angels” – Pastor Deborah delivered over 90 cards of appreciation and gratitude to the staff of Parkland Medical Center. They were overwhelmed by this loving gesture! Gratitude for members and friends in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Family of Danny, Mary Jane’s brother who died from cancer; Marie Greene whose son Jeremy died suddenly. Cards of condolences can be sent to 2 Golen Dr.; Apt 364; Londonderry, NH 03053. The family of Betty Burnell (died on 12.11.21); For the family of Joe Merrill; For the families of Oxford, OH shooting victims: Tate Myre, 16, Hana St. Juliana, 14, Madisyn Baldwin, 17, Justin Shilling, 17; For family and friends of Brian, especially Wendy W. & Jeff S.; For the families of the **837,274** people who have died in the US due to COVID. (1/12/22)

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Ruthlee Root, cards can be sent to: Hanover Hill Healthcare Center /Room 205 Bed 2 700 Hanover Street Manchester NH 03104; Lincoln, Karen W’s nephew, struggling with Autism and other mental health concerns. Jenny, friends of Jeff S; Davida, Jo’s friend, suffering from migraines after surgery. Thavy, friend of the Guerrin family, during her high-risk pregnancy- third trimester. 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 Benjamin Plouff, Dick’s brother, suffering from cardiac issues, breathing now difficult Jim, Jeff S.’s father, for prayers of confidence and healing

For those with cancer: Caroline M, who received a cancer diagnosis. Surgery is scheduled; BB Dinan (friend of the Bob and Karen) – approaching the end of his life; Bruce with stage 4 colon 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

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Law Enforcement, fire fighters; first responders, active military
Prayers for peaceful resolution to conflict situations around the world
Parkland Hospital personnel, Elliot 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 Friends of the Meetinghouse Board of Directors

United Church of Christ 5 for 5



In the national setting of the United Church of Christ there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who are supported by gifts Our Church's Wider Mission: General Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Wider Church Ministries (notably: disaster ministries) and Justice and Witness Ministries. (FPC gives monthly)

The 4 Special Mission Offerings collectively serve to lift people closer to the abundance and wholeness to which Jesus Christ has called us.



Channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources. (Lent)



Re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches and new initiatives in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. (Pentecost)



Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries. (World Communion; 1st Sunday of October)



The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. (Christmas)