

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
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January 30, 2022
The Woman at the Well



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

WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

CENTERING MUSIC AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us enter God's presence with thanksgiving.

Many: We will make a joyful noise unto the Lord – whether we can sing or not!

One: The deepest sea and the highest mountain know the presence of God.

Many: And God is where we are – ALL THE TIME! Let us worship God!

INVOCATION

We come to God because we are thirsty. Our spirits need the refreshing water of your Word. May the eyes of our hearts be open to your Son and your Word. Amen.

HYMN: #449 ***Softly and Tenderly***

Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
see, at the portals Christ, waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

**Come home, come home; All who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!**

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not God's mercies, mercies for you and for me?
Sing Refrain

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

John 4:1-42 "Jesus and the Woman of Samaria" (NRSV – Reader's Theatre)

Players: Narrator, Jesus, Samaritan woman, Disciples, and the Samaritans.

Narrator: Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, 'Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John'— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her,

Jesus: "Give me a drink."

Woman: "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"

Narrator: (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus: "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

Woman: "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

Jesus: "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

Woman: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus: "Go, call your husband, and come back."

Woman: "I have no husband."

Jesus: "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

Woman: "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus: "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Woman: "I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

Jesus: "I am - the one who is speaking to you."

Narrator: Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

Woman: "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

Narrator: They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him,

Disciples: "Rabbi, eat something."

Jesus: "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

Narrator: So the disciples said to one another,

Disciples: "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

Jesus: My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.'

Narrator: Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony,

Woman: "He told me everything I have ever done."

Narrator: So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman,

Samaritans: "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

SERMON: "Conversations with Outsiders" or "We Heard it for Ourselves"

HYMN: #451 ***Be Now My Vision***

Be now my vision, O God of my heart; Nothing surpasses the love you impart—
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word; Ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me, Now and forever your child I will be.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY INVITATION

How thankful are we – when we survey the amazing riches that God has provided on our planet? A planet that feeds our bodies and gifts of the Spirit that nourish our souls. Let us contemplate our gratitude and reciprocate to the best of our ability. If you are joining us virtually, please share your joys and concerns in the chat. Our services are recorded. Please use first names. God knows who you mean.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (please join in.)

Thank you, God, for the blessings we enjoy. We offer our best in response for those undeserved blessings. We pray that you would multiply our efforts as a sign of your love and compassion to everyone we meet. Amen.

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: #522 ***I Love to Tell The Story***

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.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you
because I want to share it, because I know it's true. [Refrain]

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

IN OUR PRAYERS – January 30, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

Fred Merrill is a gift from God and an answer to prayer! He has served this congregation with grace and wisdom for several years. Words aren't enough to express how much we all appreciate his service to First Parish.

Congratulations! Pat and Dick Plouff on the birth of another sweet great-grandbaby!
Congratulations and joy to Mark and Cindy Pingree on the birth of their new grandbaby.

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.

Cards of Care to Hospital workers- Thank you...

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;

Gratitude for members and friends in Indiana, Georgia, Zimbabwe, and N. Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Family of Ruthlee Root, who died on January 20. 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 **873,957** people who have died in the US due to COVID. (1/21/22)

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Sue (Jo W's sister) still in the hospital awaiting surgery and family cannot see her; Gail and George (Jo's friends) in ME need our prayers; 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's surgery was 1.27; BB Dinan (friend of the Bob and Karen) – approaching the end of his life; Bruce with stage 4 colon cancer; Janice P continues to fight her 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

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