

7First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

January 9, 2022

For unto
us a
Child ✨
is born
ISAIAH 9.6

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

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 95) (Led by lay reader.)

- One: O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- Many: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!
- One: The Lord is high above all nations, and God’s glory above the heavens.
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- Many: In God’s hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are God’s also.

HYMN “*We Three Kings of Orient Are*”

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star
O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy Perfect Light.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies.
O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy Perfect Light.

INVOCATION

Lord of Lords, King of Kings, we gather in thanksgiving for a year of bountiful blessings and mysterious God-winks. We acknowledge that things have been difficult: disease and discord run rampant. And yet, in the midst is your Presence and your promise of a new day. We are truly grateful for the child of hope, faith, joy and love. In your holy name and in your holy love. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So, they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

SERMON: “Grace upon Grace” In Action

HYMN: #144 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

Prophets urge us to pay attention to the Presence of God that breaks into our daily lives. God's gifts surround us: family, friends, faith and the air we breathe. Let us be mindful of the abundance that is ours to share.

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 A MEMBER – Diane Breeden

SERVICE AS A DEACON – Sue Brown

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

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

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time, treasure and talent, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your Presence among us. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,
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: *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere

Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night

Behold throughout the heavens There shone a Holy light

Sing Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled When, lo! Above the Earth

Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth

Sing 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

LAY READER – Diane Breeden

GREETERS – Sue Brown, Sue Lindemann (Remote)

SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin

AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Brian Williams and Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - January 9, 2021

PRAYERS OF JOY

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!

The Family Promise event was an extraordinary display of generosity!

“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!

Sugar Plum Angels – thanks to organizers and worker bees – one and all!

Church Wifi was upgraded – with joy and appreciation to Paul and Dani

Dangamvura – UCCZ – Zimbabwe African Church has been in touch with us

Gratitude for members and friends in Georgia, Zimbabwe, and Northern Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

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 **829,740** people who have died in the US due to COVID. (1/7/22)

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Ruthlee Root, hospitalized on 12/20; 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 testing positive with covid: Mary L.; Aleigha; Jennie; Pastor Deborah and Liz; Diana S; Pat P; Alexander C;

For those with cancer: Caroline M, who just 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; Danny with stage 4 cancer, brother of Mary Jane (friend of Rachel and Alec.)

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