

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041  
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**February 13, 2022**



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 - "Freedom" - AND LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (led by lay reader, Dee Deranian)

One: Wait for God, who deals gently with us.

**Many:** Out of the depths we cry out to God – who knows us through and through!

One: We can know God's steadfast love – here and now.

**Many:** The losses we suffer are not God's last word!

HYMN: # 475 ***God's Eye is on the Sparrow***

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart feel lonely? And long for heaven and home

When God is my portion My constant friend will be;

God's eye is on the sparrow And I know God watches me (repeat this line)

I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free

God's eye is on the sparrow And I know God watches me

INVOCATION (led by lay reader)

**We come to you today O God, with overwhelming gratitude. You find us where we are and you heal us of our shadows. We experience broken relationships and broken promises and we yearn to see through them and into your light. Be with us in this hour lifting us out of our ruts and routines and into the fullness of life in Christ. Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE: #610 **Glory, Glory Hallelujah!** (x3) God's truth is marching on!

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

SCRIPTURE: John 6:35-51

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup> for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

<sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

<sup>41</sup> Then the Jew(ish leaders)\* began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.

<sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup> Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup> Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life.

<sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

SERMON: "Heavenly Bread"

## **WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP**

### OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

We have heartily accepted the gracious gifts of God, given so abundantly. We now have the opportunity to share what we have and to serve our God by serving our sisters and brothers. May our giving reflect our recognition of our bounty.

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.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Nobody knows da Trouble I see*

### DOXOLOGY: *Masithi*

Amen siakudumisa. (x2) Amen bawo, Amen bawo, Amen siakudumisa.

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

**Thank you, God, for your continuing providence, even when we mutter our grievances. In gratitude for undeserved grace and unlimited opportunity, we ask your blessing upon our gifts, that they be multiplied and may they build up the body of Christ in our midst. Amen.**

## **WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER**

### HYMN: # 472 *Precious Lord* (vs.1)

Precious Lord, take my hand; Lead me on, let me stand;

I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn

Through the storm, through the night; Lead me on to the light

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

### 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: #474 *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me. (x3) Singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. (x3)

Singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!

## 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 – Dee Deranian

GREETERS – Reni Harnden, Jo Worthen, Sue Lindemann (Remote)

MUSICIAN – Deanna Butler

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER - Michelle Guerrin

AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Mike Schroeder

**DREAM** like **Martin**

**HELP** like **Harriet**

**FIGHT** like **Frederick**

**SPEAK** like **Sojourner**

**INVENT** like **Madam C.J.**

**WRITE** like **Langston**

**DARE** like **Rosa**

**CREATE** like **Quincy**

**INSPIRE** like **Maya**

**LEAD** like **Barack**

**Black History**  
*is* **American History**

# *IN OUR PRAYERS - February 13, 2021*

## **PRAYERS OF JOY**

Diapers! Diapers! Thank you to everyone who donated diapers for Upper Room!  
**Thavy & her husband Brian**, friends of the Guerrin family, welcomed their first child on Feb 8th, a son, after many years and a very high-risk pregnancy.

Storms do not prevent us from worshipping together!! Technology helps us worship!  
Rumors of a balanced budget are TRUE!!! God's abundance and God's people's generosity!

Gratitude from the staff for the raises and insurance coverage.

Renewed energy for projects and events around the church!

Thank you to Laurel Devino, our musician last week. She is no stranger to First Parish, and we welcome her back with enthusiasm.

**Thank you to Paper Angels!**

**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 at Dartmouth Hitchcock- Thank you for writing!

**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 when Pastor Deborah had Covid;

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

## **PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION**

Family & friends of Dolly Cabral (friend of the Guerrin Family) who died on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> from Covid complications. Family of Ruthlee Root, who died on January 20. For the families of the **910,373** people who have died in the US due to COVID. (2/11/22)

## **PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING**

Carol (Carol G.'s sister-in-law) facing multiple operations to deal with the effects of Parkinson's; 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; 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, staff at Dartmouth Hitchcock 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