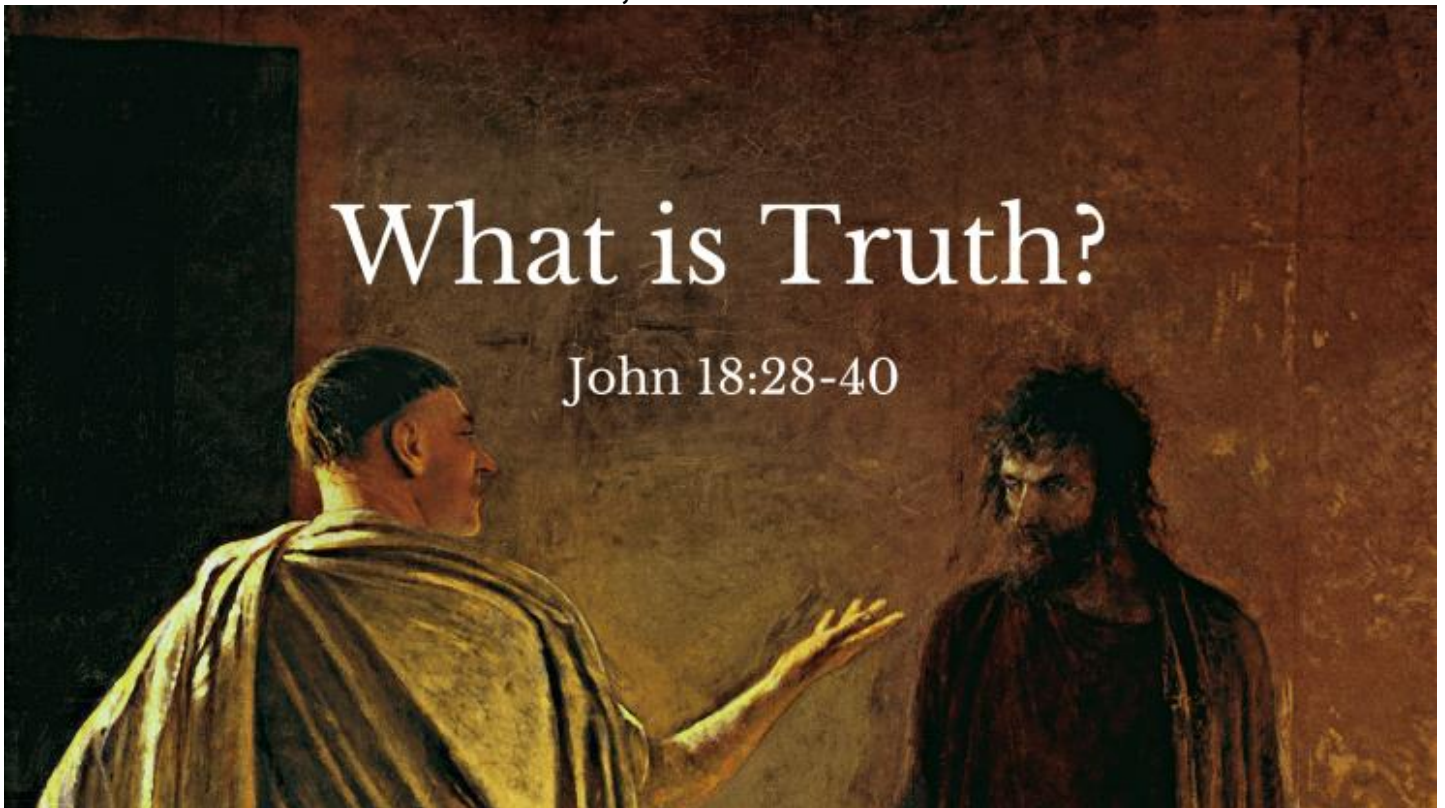


First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
Tel. (603) 434 – 0628

March 27, 2022 – Lent 4



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 *Soon and very soon*

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (led by lay reader, Tom Wood)

One: In the midst of the darkness of the world, we seek the light of Christ.

Many: God is our refuge, our rock and our fortress!

One: God's mercies never end; they are new every morning.

Many: Let us hear God's will for our lives in these difficult times!

HYMN: # 505 Sweet Hour of Prayer (Vs. 1 & 3)

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care
And bids me at my Maker's house Make all my wants and wishes known
In seasons of distress and grief My soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer! Whose wings shall my petition bear
To One whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, believe God's word, and trust God's grace,
I'll cast away my every care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

INVOCATION (led by lay reader)

Incline your ear to us, gracious God, and hear the troubles on our hearts. Let your face shine upon us here as we walk the path you've laid before us. Lead us in compassion and truth and stir us in constant love for one another. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: # 547 Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: John 18: 28-40

²⁸ Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

SERMON: *THEY* chose the bandit. Who will you choose?

WE RESPOND WITH OUR STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

Love knows no limits in its giving. As the congregation of Israel brought its best lambs from their flocks as offerings, we are invited to bring our best in thanksgiving. 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.

GETTING TO KNOW A CHILD OF GOD: Michael Rounds

OFFERTORY MUSIC: Blues Improvisation

BLESSING OF THE One Great Hour of Sharing BOXES

DOXOLOGY #785

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

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

Mysterious and magnanimous God, you are our truth, and we would not dream of measuring our faith in money. Rather, our wealth is a tool that makes possible some of the works of care and love that you expect of us. Use our offerings to bring light to our shadowy world. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

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: #553 There Is a Balm in Gilead

**Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.**

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Refrain

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
Who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.

Refrain

EXTINGUISHING A LENTEN CANDLE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban

LAY READER – Tom Wood

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

GUEST MUSICIAN – Daemian Allen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR – Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER – Michelle Guerrin

AV/ TECHNICAL – Paul Lindemann with Mike Schroeder

IN OUR PRAYERS - March 27, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Spaghetti Supper: Our monthly supper “feeds the hungry” per Jesus’ teaching.
The elevator passed its final inspection.

Pastor Deborah held a public lecture on John 3 and 4 to the community at the United Theological School in Zimbabwe. Joy of technology!

Our sister church in Zimbabwe – Dangamvura UCC – has invited us to write to them!
Music Committee is working hard to provide a program of music for worship services!
Gratitude for members and friends in Indiana, Georgia, Zimbabwe, and N. Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Paul Lindemann and his family on the death of Paul's mom 3.22.22

Family & friends of Bob Greenfield (friend of the Guerrin Family) who died on March 2nd

For the families of the **971,212** who have died in the US due to COVID. (3/24/22)

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Dave Beauchesne, father of two small children, had emergency brain surgery.

Andrea Cooper is now (3.25.22) in Mass. General hospital for treatment.

Martha (Nancy M's sister-in-law) is in intensive care in a Denver area hospital.

Gary (friend of the Guerrin Family) with stage 3 lung cancer; Sue (Jo W's sister) still in the hospital awaiting surgery and family cannot see her; Carol (Carol G.'s sister-in-law) facing multiple operations to deal with the effects of Parkinson's; 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: Sue Weaver (her operation isn't until 4.27.22)

Caroline M's started her 5 weeks of radiation last week; 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

Ukraine – its people, its President. Russia – its people, its Leaders.

Poland – who has received nearly 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine

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

Final Announcements:

Tuesday evening Labyrinth walk at 6:00pm. Ask the office for the zoom link.

Lenten Wonder Worship at 6:45 in Currier. Join us to sing, pray and consider our sacred story. Joan Virga is our Music Leader.

April Newsletter Deadline is Sunday March 27th- Please submit your article to officemgr@fpc-ucc.org TODAY

NEW exciting upcoming events:

- **1st Spring Fling** ~ Saturday May 21st: 8-1
Yard Sale, our 'famous' cookie walk, a basket raffle, vendors, food and more.
- **Fundraising Footrace** ~ June 25th: The Friends together with Dave Breeden's [New England Timing](#) company are running a competitive race and fun run to raise money for Meetinghouse preservation.
- **Vacation Church Camp** : Rocky Railway July 25th – July 28th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day is for kids ages 4 to 12.

As always, financial donations to the church are gratefully accepted at any time. Make checks out to "First Parish". You may drop them off or mail to "PO Box 114; East Derry, NH 03041." If you wish your donation to go to a designated place (Mission, Building Fund, etc) please write this in the Memo portion.

Back to the Sanctuary Fund Drive: Letters have gone out explaining our path to return to the Meetinghouse Sanctuary. If you did not receive a letter with a pledge card, let the office know and we will get that to you. Pray about how you can help us with this next phase of this project!

Aid for Ukraine - We are sending money to the UCC disaster relief fund, specifically for aid to Ukraine. IF you wish to send a donation, as well, please write the check to First Parish and write "Ukraine Relief" in the memo portion.

Also, the Guerrin family has a personal friend who has family still in Ukraine. If you wish to learn more about Anya P. and how to help ~ please contact Michelle at officemgr@fpc-ucc.org or 407-947-5122 for more information.

