

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

**July 10, 2022
Communion**



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

CENTERING MUSIC // LIGHTING THE CHRIST LIGHT

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Dee Deranian)

One: We come to worship and to praise, to pray and to hear God’s voice!

Many: *For such a time as this!*

One: Attend to the love God gives and the overflowing grace of God!

Many: *For such a time as this!*

One: Let us sing and pray; let us hear and respond.

Many: *For such a time as this!*

HYMN: #439 ***A Mighty Fortress is Our God*** (1, 3)

INVOCATION (Led by lay reader please join in.)

Come, O Creator, O Immensity of love, O Eternity of mercy. Come and be with us and in us and beside us and above us now. Be as warmth within us and light upon our face. Abide in our prayers and make your Word come alive within us here. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (lay leader)

Let us examine our lives in the presence of God, humbly confessing the moments of our shortsightedness and the habit of our shortcomings – all of which put a barrier between who we think we are and who God believes us to be.

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden - rinse the thoughts of our hearts with the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may love you more purely and magnify Your presence in our world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (lay leader)

One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. This is the good news that brings us new life. Praise God!

SONG OF PRAISE: #759 *Gloria Patri*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION; OUR SACRED STORY; and PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

COMMUNION HYMN: #331 Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life (all)

SHARING the MEAL

At home, you may use elements of your choosing to represent the bread and the cup. If you are with your family, please serve one another.

Here in our Sanctuary, we will be using the individual cups that you picked up at the entrance. Lift one tab to retrieve the “bread”. Carefully lift the second tab to drink the juice. You will be able to discard the empty cup as you leave the sanctuary.

The Bread of Life.... (we take together)

The Cup of Love... (we take prayerfully in our own time)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Esther 3-5 (Selected Verses) (Translation from the International Children's Bible)

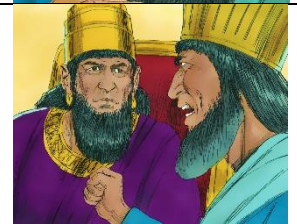
³ King Xerxes gave Haman a new rank that was higher than all the important men. ² And all the royal officers at the king's gate would bow down and kneel before Haman, This was what the king had ordered. But Mordecai would not bow down, and he did not kneel.



³ Then the royal officers at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why don't you obey the king's command?" ⁵ Then Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down to him or kneel before him. And he became very angry. So he looked for a way to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, in all of Xerxes' kingdom.



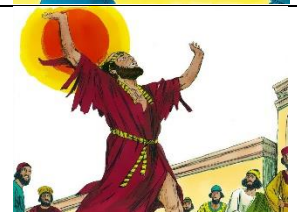
⁸ Then Haman said to Xerxes, "There is a certain group of people in all the areas of your kingdom. Their customs are different from those of all the other people. And they do not obey the king's laws. ⁹ If it pleases the king, let an order be given to destroy those people. Then I will pay 375 tons of silver to the royal treasury. ¹¹ Then the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are yours. Do with them as you please."



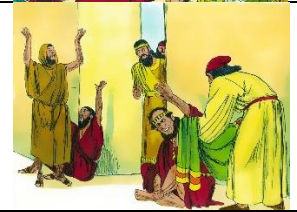
¹³ Letters were sent by messengers to all the king's empires. They stated the king's order to destroy, kill and completely wipe out all the Jews on a single day. And it is said to take all the things that belonged to the Jews. ¹⁴ A copy of the order was to be given out as a law in every area. It was to be made known to all the people so that they would be ready for that day.



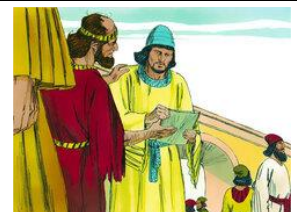
⁴ Now Mordecai heard about all that had been done. To show how upset he was, he tore his clothes. Then he put on rough cloth and ashes. And he went out into the city crying loudly and very sadly. ³ Many Jews lay down on rough cloth and ashes to show how sad they were.



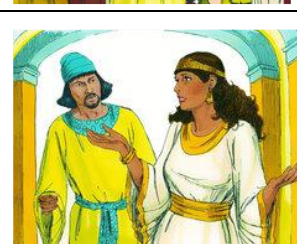
⁴ Esther's servant girls and eunuchs came to her and told her about Mordecai. Esther was very upset and afraid. She sent clothes for Mordecai to put on instead of the rough cloth. But he would not wear them. ⁵ Then Esther ordered Hathach to find out what was bothering Mordecai and why.



⁶ So Hathach went to Mordecai. Mordecai was in the city square in front of the king's gate. ⁸ Mordecai gave him a copy of the order to kill the Jews, which had been given in Susa. He wanted Hathach to show it to Esther and to tell her about it. And Mordecai told him to order Esther to go into the king's presence. He wanted her to beg for mercy and to plead with him for her people.



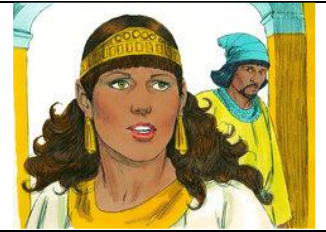
⁹ Hathach went back and reported to Esther everything Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then Esther told Hathach to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ "All the royal officers and people of the royal areas know this: No man or woman may go to the king in the inner courtyard without being called. There is only one law about this. Anyone who enters must be put to death. But if the king holds out his gold scepter, that person may live. And I have not been called to go to the king for 30 days."



¹² And Esther's message was given to Mordecai. ¹³ Then Mordecai gave orders to say to Esther: "Just because you live in the king's palace, don't think that out of all the Jews you alone will escape. ¹⁴ You might keep quiet at this time. Then someone else will help and save the Jews. But you and your father's family will all die. And who knows, you may have been chosen queen for just such a time as this."



¹⁵ Then Esther sent this answer to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go and get all the Jews in Susa together. For my sake, give up eating. Do not eat or drink for three days, night and day. I and my servant girls will also give up eating. Then I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I die, I die."



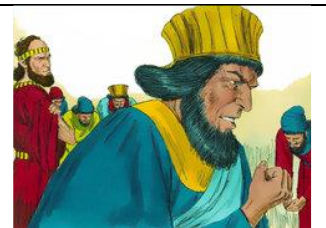
⁵ On the third day Esther put on her royal robes. Then she stood in the inner courtyard of the king's palace, facing the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the doorway. ² The king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard. When he saw her, he was very pleased. He held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther went up to him and touched the end of the scepter.

³ Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What do you want to ask me? I will give you as much as half of my kingdom."

⁷ Esther answered, "This is what I want and ask for. ⁸ My king, I hope you are pleased with me. Come with Haman tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for you. Then I will answer your question about what I want."



⁹ Haman left the king's palace that day happy and content. Then he saw Mordecai at the king's gate. And he saw that Mordecai did not stand up nor did he tremble with fear before him. So Haman became very angry ¹⁰ But he controlled his anger and went home.



Then Haman called his friends and Zeresh, his wife, together. ¹¹ And he told them about how wealthy he was and how many sons he had. And he told them how the king had placed him higher than his royal officers. ¹² "And that's not all," Haman added. Tomorrow the queen has asked me to be her guest with the king. ¹³ But all this does not really make me happy. I'm not happy as long as I see that Jew, Mordecai, sitting at the king's gate."

¹⁴ Then Haman's wife Zeresh and all his friends said, "Have a platform built to hang someone. Build it 75 feet high. And in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go to the banquet with the king and be happy." Haman liked this suggestion. So he ordered the platform to be built.



SERMON: For Such a Time as This

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

Having received so abundantly through the generosity of God and the hope of the risen Christ, let us give thankfully and abundantly that we join the faithful throng of generous children of God.

If you are joining us virtually, please use the next few moments to share joys and concerns in the chat. Please use first names as our services are recorded. God knows who you mean.

DOXOLOGY: #780 ***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow***

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

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received: accept, we pray, the offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is intended. May our offerings promote the love of Christ far and wide. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER

HYMN: #207 Just As I Am

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: #76 Sent Forth by God's Blessing (vs 1)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.)

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 and Sue Lindemann (Remote)
SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER – Jill Taylor
AV/STREAMING – Paul Lindemann, Mike Schroeder, Brian Williams & Reni Harden

IN OUR PRAYERS –

Loving gratitude from the Rod and Suzanne Hunt: “Our thanks to Pastor Deborah and members of First Parish Church for ongoing prayers and cards that have been sent to Rod during his recent surgery and recovery. He is gaining but it is still a long process.”

PRAYERS OF JOY

Pastor Deborah’s Daughter Stephanie was married July 2 to Eileen!
2nd Annual Windham Pride Festival – First Parish welcomed many LGBTQ+ folks
Welcome to Jill Taylor, our new Office Manager.
Paul’s successful submission to LCHIP for a grant for the ceiling work.
We held a joyous “going home” service for Jane Krantz. What a gift!
How beautiful to have new siding along the Noyes Building along the ramp! The shed in the parking lot is painted!! Thank you to the Board of Facilities.
Gratitude to the Personnel Board for their search for a new Office Manager!
From Michelle: “Thank you for such an amazing service and party June 12th. Your kind words and generosity were overwhelming. I am so grateful.”
Pastor Deborah’s grandson arrived on June 1! Baby, big brother and parents – all fine!
Our sister church in Zimbabwe – Danganvura UCC – has invited us to write to them!
Gratitude for members and friends in Indiana, Georgia, Zimbabwe, and N. Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

Sue Weaver, death of her father 6.30.22. Cards of consolation may be mailed to 7 Beacon St; Derry. Prayers for Sue and the entire family.
Trina's sister Marian’s husband (Larry) lost his battle with cancer May 31
For the families of those killed and injured in the Highland Park, IL parade shooting
For the families of those killed and injured in the NYC boroughs shootings.
For the families of those killed by an assault rifle in a Texas Elementary School
For the families of those killed in the grocery store in Buffalo, NY.
For the families of the more than one million souls who have died in the US due to COVID.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Cindy Pingree has stage 4 kidney disease.
Ginnie Behan, suffering from permanent damage to her lung after an operation.

Andrea & Tom recovering from Covid.

Carol (Carol G.'s sister-in-law) advanced stages of Parkinson's.

Lincoln, Karen W's nephew, struggling with Autism and other mental health concerns.

Jenny, friend of Jeff S; Davida, Jo's friend

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:

Brenda, dear friend of Alec Cobban, stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer.

Marcia (dear friend of Karen and Bob) with advanced ovarian cancer.

Gary (friend of the Guerrin Family) with stage 3 lung cancer

Rod Hunt, recovering from his operation.

Lisa (friend of Liz G and Pastor Deborah) is recovering from her operation.

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

Rev. Kennedy Gondongwe, facing harassment from his government.

Zimbabwe – as the people try to speak truth to power.

Victims of domestic terrorism, hate crimes and other senseless acts of violence.

Teachers – who continue to give their heart and soul with diminishing resources.

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

Poland and other NATO countries who are offering aid in Ukraine's time of crisis.

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; Tim B – Health & strength and

Bonnie H, friend of Tim B

Final Announcements: Upcoming Events:

- Vacation Church Camp: Rocky Railway July 25th – 28th; 9 to 12:00 pm is for ages 4 to 12.