

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road East Derry, NH 03041
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July 24, 2022



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

<https://youtu.be/fr7S2joM4IU>

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Cathy Zylinski)

One: Friends, we know what God desires of us:

Many: That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

One: We gather this morning to remind each other about that

Many: To remember that now is always the right time to do these things.

One: So with gratitude in our hearts, let us worship God!

HYMN: # #436 God of Grace and God of Glory (Verses 1, 4 & 5)

INVOCATION (Led by lay reader please join in.)

Almighty God, we give thanks that you promise us that where two or three are gathered you are there in the midst. Lord we welcome You amongst us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished upon each of us. We ask that You would open our ears so that we may hear your voice. Open our minds so that we may receive Your wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know Your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive Your gracious love.
Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: (Amen “Amen Siakudumisa” is a hymn by Stephen Cuthbert Molefe, a South African composer and choir master. The original words are in Xhosa, and we sing it in both Xhosa and English.)

Amen siyakudumisa (masithi)
Amen siyakudumisa (masithi)
Amen, Bawo; Amen Bawo;
Amen siyakudumisa. (masithi)

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)
Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)
Amen, amen
Amen, amen
Amen, we praise your name, O God. (sing ‘amen’)

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Esther 6, 7 (Selected verses) from The Message

6¹⁻² That night the king couldn’t sleep. He ordered the record book, the day-by-day journal of events, to be brought and read to him. They came across the story there about the time that Mordecai had exposed the plot of Bigthana and Teresh—the two royal eunuchs who guarded the entrance and who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

³ The king asked, “What great honor was given to Mordecai for this?”

“Nothing,” replied the king’s servants who were in attendance. “Nothing has been done for him.”

⁴ The king said, “Is there anybody out in the court?”

Now Haman had just come into the outer court of the king’s palace to talk to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had built for him.

⁵ The king’s servants said, “Haman is out there, waiting in the court.”

“Bring him in,” said the king.

⁶⁻⁹ When Haman entered, the king said, “What would be appropriate for the man the king especially wants to honor?”

Haman thought to himself, “He must be talking about honoring me—who else?” So he answered the king, “For the man the king delights to honor, do this: Bring a royal robe that the

king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crown on its head. Then give the robe and the horse to one of the king's most noble princes. Have him robe the man whom the king especially wants to honor; have the prince lead him on horseback through the city square, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man whom the king especially wants to honor!'"

¹⁰ "Go and do it," the king said to Haman. "Don't waste another minute. Take the robe and horse and do what you have proposed to Mordecai the Jew who sits at the King's Gate. Don't leave out a single detail of your plan."

* * *

7 ¹⁻² So the king and Haman went to dinner with Queen Esther. At this second dinner, while they were drinking wine the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what would you like? Half of my kingdom! Just ask and it's yours."

³ Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your eyes, O King, and if it please the king, give me my life, and give my people their lives."

⁴ "We've been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed—sold to be massacred, eliminated. If we had just been sold off into slavery, I wouldn't even have brought it up; our troubles wouldn't have been worth bothering the king over."

⁵ King Xerxes exploded, "Who? Where is he? This is monstrous!"

⁶ "An enemy. An adversary. This evil Haman," said Esther.

Haman was terror-stricken before the king and queen.

⁷⁻⁸ The king, raging, left his wine and stomped out into the palace garden.

Haman stood there pleading with Queen Esther for his life—he could see that the king was finished with him and that he was doomed. As the king came back from the palace garden into the banquet hall, Haman was groveling at the couch on which Esther reclined. The king roared out, "Will he even molest the queen while I'm just around the corner?"

When that word left the king's mouth, all the blood drained from Haman's face.

⁹ Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, spoke up: "Look over there! There's the gallows that Haman had built for Mordecai, who saved the king's life. It's right next to Haman's house—seventy-five feet high!"

The king said, "Hang him on it!"

¹⁰ So Haman was hanged on the very gallows that he had built for Mordecai. And the king's hot anger cooled.

Reflection by Diana Sweeney

SPECIAL MUSIC: Esther's Song – Kurtis Parks and Friends

<https://youtu.be/0Rt5pAWifl0>

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

We long for the time
when the meek shall inherit the earth
and all who hunger and thirst after justice
shall be satisfied,
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,
now is always the time
when more good can be done
and we can make a difference.

**May it be so, through the offering of these gifts
and the offering of our lives. Amen.**

(Source: Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona)

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: #785 We Give You but Your Own

We give you but your own, what e'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.**)

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to
pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need
of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.**

(Source: Thom Shuman)

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

HYMN: # 81 God Be With You (Verses 1-3)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE (Please remain seated.) <https://youtu.be/l2JkOua7hTY>

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
GUEST WORSHIP LEADER – Diana Sweeney (Member in Discernment)
LAY READER – Cathy Zylinski
GREETERS –Jo Worthen and Sue Lindemann (Remote)
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier
OFFICE MANAGER – Jill Taylor
AV/STREAMING – Paul Lindemann, Mike Schroeder, Brian Williams & Reni Harden

IN OUR PRAYERS – July 24, 2022

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
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!
Pastor Deborah’s grandson arrived on June 1! Baby, big brother and parents – all fine!
Our sister church in Zimbabwe – Dangamvura 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

Caroline Morse childhood friend Renee whose cancer metastasized
Cindy Pingree continued prayers for health and healing

Ginnie Behan, suffering from permanent damage to her lung after an operation
Jeff Slowick's mom recovering from appendix surgery with complications and for his dad who has grown weaker and has fallen down several times.

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.