

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 3, 2022**



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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 by Beth Hunter

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Beth Hunter)

ONE: God, help us to work on ways of compassion and caring for all – prepare us for ways to work towards calming the chaos and concerns that we are all feeling at this time.

**MANY: God, please show us the ways.**

ONE: We are struggling to understand and come to reason with all the strife and turmoil that are becoming all too common, as part of our everyday lives.

**MANY: Walk with us on our journey.**

ONE: Show us the ways we can become more inter-dependent – where we all need each other to survive.

**MANY: May we learn through your teachings how to navigate through the mazes that have been put in place to reach out to love and honor our worldwide family.**

HYMN: #573 ***Lead On Eternal Sovereign*** (vs.1, 2)

INVOCATION (Led by lay reader please join in.)

Lord, open our ears and our hearts to hear the teachings being shared with us today. Let us learn from so that our lives can be enriched by the words we are to hear, and the meditations being shared.

SONG OF PRAISE: #759 ***Gloria Patri***

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

**Introduction to Esther – Cathy Pottle**

**SCRIPTURE: Esther 2 (selected verses)**

<sup>1</sup> After these things, when the anger of King (Xerxes) had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. <sup>2</sup> Then the king's servants who attended him said, 'Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. <sup>3</sup> And let the king appoint commissioners in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in the citadel of Susa under the custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; let their cosmetic treatments be given them. <sup>4</sup> And let the girl who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.' This pleased the king, and he did so.

<sup>5</sup> Now there was a Jew in the citadel of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite. <sup>6</sup> Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with King Jeconiah of Judah, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his cousin, for she had neither father nor mother; the girl was fair and beautiful, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter.

<sup>8</sup> So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in the citadel of Susa in the custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in the custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. <sup>9</sup> The girl pleased him and won his favor, and he quickly provided her with her cosmetic treatments and her portion of food, and with seven chosen maids from the king's palace, and advanced her and her maids to the best place in the harem. <sup>10</sup> Esther did not reveal her people or kindred, for Mordecai had charged her not to tell. <sup>11</sup> Every day Mordecai would walk around in front of the court of the harem, to learn how Esther was and how she fared.

<sup>15</sup> When the turn came for Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now

Esther was admired by all who saw her. <sup>16</sup> When Esther was taken to King (Xerxes), in his royal palace in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, <sup>17</sup> the king loved Esther more than all the other women; of all the virgins she won his favor and devotion, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup> Then the king gave a great banquet to all his officials and ministers — ‘Esther’s banquet.’ He also granted a holiday to the provinces and gave gifts with royal liberality.

REFLECTION by Diane Breeden

HYMN: #591 *This Is My Song*

### **WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS**

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader)

Our amazing Savior will show us the ways that we can continue to share our time and talents to support all those that need our assistance. May our hearts and hands be opened to help our brothers and sisters that need our caring to survive.

*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, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. Amen

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

Led by Cathy Pottle:

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 Diane Breeden

HYMN: #77 *Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*

## BLESSING

Lord, we have searched, prepared, and found you in this place. Please go with us now as we leave this place to spread your love to all we touch today and in all the days to come. Go forth and may it be a good week! Amen

## 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

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY – Diane Breeden, Cathy Pottle

LAY READER – Beth Hunter

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

GUEST MUSICIAN – Trina Brand

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 - July 3, 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!

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 last week. What a gift!

How beautiful to have new siding along the Noyes Building along the ramp! 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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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!

We have a “paper Angel!” - We thank God for you! Thank you!

Spring Fling – wonderful first time!! Thank you to everyone who helped us!

Dozens (nearly 200!) of “cards of caring” were delivered to CMC! Thank you, All!

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**

Bob – Nancy L's dad – died. Prayers for his family.

Jeff Delangie's grandmother died. Prayers for Jeff and all the family.

Trina's sister Marian's husband (Larry) lost his battle with cancer May 31

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**

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:**

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**

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.