

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

November 20, 2022

The Many Faces of Thanksgiving

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

OPENING SONG: It's A Good Day by Inside Track

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Led by Cathy Zylinski)

One: This is sacred time: Sabbath time.

Many: Let us center ourselves and together claim God's holy Presence.

One: We come to this sacred place so that together we may be community.

Many: Let all God's people join their hearts in praise and wonder.

One: Sacred time, sacred place, a community of faith gathered together.

Many: We gather together to hear our God's voice and give thanks.

Song: It's A Good Day sung by Inside Track

INVOCATION (Led by lay reader please join in.)

Loving God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid: prepare our hearts to receive your love and be transformed by it – so that we may take it out into the world when we leave this place. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: #421 We Gather Together

We gather together to ask for God's blessing to live in community seeking God's will. We come now as sisters and brothers confessing the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 42:5-9, 14; 49:1-4; 66:12-14 (NRSVA)

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,^[a]
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace,
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labour,
I will gasp and pant.

49 Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

² He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'

⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God.'

¹² For thus says the LORD:

¹³ As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,
and his indignation is against his enemies.

SERMON: Nurturing God

WE RESPOND WITH OUR FINANCIAL GIFTS

OFFERTORY INVITATION (lay reader): (Psalm 49:8)

⁸ Thus says the LORD:

In a time of favour I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;
I have kept you and given you
as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages;

As God has so richly blessed us, we bring our treasure for God's blessing, praying that our meager gifts may be magnified for the good of God's children.

If you are worshiping with us in this room, please know that you may leave your gifts in the box at the back of the room on your way out. Or if you use Venmo, use @First-Parish – Know your privacy settings.

If you are worshipping at home, please use this time to write your joys and concerns in the chat function.

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

O good and gracious God, generous and compassionate beyond our imaginations, accept this offering of Your people, we pray. Remember in Your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given – that through them Your love and Your peace enter the world with more energy than ever before. Amen.

DOXOLOGY: #425 For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God

WE RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE AND PRAYER

SONG No More Sorrow sung by Inside Track

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.

SONG Alleluia sung by Inside Track

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE A LOVING, SERVING GOD

ANY FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #421 We Gather Together (verse 3)

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.

You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,

Empowering all by the hope you engender.

Grant us wisdom and courage to follow your way.

BENEDICTION followed by Irish Blessing sung by Inside Track

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR - Christine Lehoullier

OFFICE MANAGER – Jill Taylor

SONG LEADER – Katie Cobban

LAY READER – Cathy Zylinski

GREETERS – Jo Worthen and Rachel Cobban

DIGITAL MINISTRY – Paul Lindemann, Mike Schroeder, Brian Williams, Jack Grand, Reni Harnden and Alec Cobban

JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP FOR SACRED CONVERSATION

We will talk about “how we organize ourselves” and “how decisions get made”. There’s no such thing as a silly question. What are you curious about?

IN OUR PRAYERS – November 20, 2022

PRAYERS OF JOY

Celebrating our Native American brothers and sisters this month!

So many people helped on Demo Day on Saturday 11/12. We are so grateful for your time and assistance! Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann, Bob Wilson, Randy Brown, Dee Deranian and Larry Krantz for all their daily work during the week on the Meetinghouse and Church.

Congratulations to Miss Christine on receiving her certification in Faith Formation.

Michelle Guerrin is back home and doing well!

For Jo Worthen's sister Sue who moved into her own apartment!

These beautiful Fall days bring smiles to our faces!

Facilities is working hard on our grounds! It's looking really great! Thank you! The blessed oil tank has been removed and the ground rededicated! Success! We are so lucky/blessed that the pavement did NOT need to be dug up! What a blessing! A major cost avoided.

Labyrinth Walks, Adult Faith Formation and CCEP continue to enlighten and transform
Gratitude for members and friends in Indiana, Georgia, Zimbabwe, and N. Ireland.

PRAYERS OF CONSOLATION

For the families of the police officers killed in the line of duty.

For the families of those killed and injured in senseless shootings.

For the families of the over one million souls who have died in the US due to COVID.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH, HEALTH, AND HEALING

Diana's close friends, Colleen and Charlie.

Andrea Cooper is home and continues to need prayer: you may send cards to Andrea at 30 Stonegate Lane, Hampstead, 03841.

Marge Palmer's friend Becky Rooney, former director of Hampstead Library lost her home in Northport, FL and is looking for housing.

For Marilyn Ham who is rehabilitating at Hanover Hill Health Care Center, 700 Hanover St. Manchester, 03104.

For the Pingree family and for Matt Pingree, 10 Oak Ave, Litchfield 03052

For the people of Puerto Rico, Bermuda, Cuba who endured the wrath of Hurricane Ian, while some were still recovering from Hurricane Fiona.

For Jeff's and Wendy's friend Kevin, working through his mother's declining health.

Jack Kennedy and the efforts of SUMBAWA

FOR THOSE WITH CANCER:

Matt Pingree with esophageal and stomach cancer.

Sheree (John Bartel's step-daughter) with breast cancer.

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

Jerry G's friend Gary, struggling with his lung cancer.

Sally (cousin of Carol G.) being treated for bladder cancer.

BB Dinan (friend of the Bob and Karen) struggling with terminal cancer.
Bruce with stage 4 colon cancer.
Janice P continues to fight her cancer.
Martha, close friend of Pat and Dick P, who is fighting leukemia.

SPECIAL ONGOING PRAYERS

Pastor Joshua and UCC Dangamvura, Zimbabwe
Rev. Kennedy Gondongwe, transitions to a new home in the UK
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;
Bonnie H, friend of Tim B.

Mission Giving

God invites us to participate in God's compassion in the world.

Here is a list of the ways that you could help others.

Give as you are able.

Financial donations: Make check out to First Parish, write the key word in the memo.
Thanksgiving Baskets – stays local, joint effort with Community Caregivers

Angel Tree project

We are collecting gifts to give to local families who would otherwise not be able to provide gifts for their children. We hope that you will consider helping out a family this year at Christmas. Please see the link below.

<https://fpc-ucc.org/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Angel-Tree-gift-request-form-2022-3.pdf>

This form must be returned to the First Parish Church office before Friday, December 2nd. Gifts can be picked up on Sunday Dec. 18th from 11:00am-noon at First Parish Congregational Church. If you are unable to pick up the gifts on Dec. 18th contact First Parish Office 603-434-0628 or e-mail officemgr@fpc-ucc.org to make arrangements to pick up the gifts.