

**FIRST PARISH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL)**

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An Open & Affirming Congregation

Rev. Norma Brettell, Intrim Minister     Bette Daley, Organist/Choir Director

Third Sunday of Easter     May 5, 2019

*Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use. 1 Timothy 4:12-14 (The Message)*

**PRELUDE** *Please observe quiet time in the sanctuary during the prelude.*

**PROCESSION AND CANDLE-LIGHTING** *Pastor Norma and Kaleigh Richer and Children*

One: Christ is risen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All: Risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

One: May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Led by the Children*

One: This joyful season of Eastertide, we celebrate our risen brother Jesus still with us!

**All: Christ rose from death and we adore God's love made human triumphant over death!**

One: Come, each and all, let us taste the bread of salvation and the fruit of the vine,

**All: and prepare ourselves for the heavenly joy of taking part in the table of the Lord.**

**With hymns and humble, grateful hearts we welcome all to Christ's table!**

**OPENING PRAYER** *Led by the Children*

1

**\*OPENING HYMN** *"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"* No. 342

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

One: Let us offer our Confession:

Babies may cry in worship, and we may grumble: Forgive us, O God!

**All: Jesus said: "Let the children come to me for they belong to the reign of God."**

One: Children may remind us that we are all creatures with bodies, imaginations, and questions—

And we feel that their noisiness disturbs us: Forgive us, O God!

**All: Jesus said: "Let the children come to me for they belong to the reign of God."**

One: Children may confront us with their vulnerability and need, and we may forget they are able agents of hope and new life: Forgive us, O God!

**All: Jesus said: "Let the children come to me for they belong to the reign of God."**

**One:** Images of children show us the reality of our world in this time: Fleeing refugee children, homeless and hungry children, abused children. But we may turn our faces from the evidence all around us: Forgive us, O God!

**All: Jesus said: "Let the children come to me for they belong to the reign of God."**

**Cleanse us from our ignorance.**

**Cleanse us from our lack of compassion.**

**Come into our hearts, O Holy One, and make us new, like children again.**

**\*ACT OF PRAISE** *Gloria Patri* No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN. AMEN.**

**\*SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER**

Kaleigh Richer: The peace of Christ be with you all!

**ALL: And also with you!**

Kaleigh Richer: In the name Christ, let us share a sign of peace with one another.

2

**RESPONSE IN SONG** *"Dream God's Dream"* (words and music by Bryan Sirchio)

*Dream God's Dream! Holy Spirit help us dream*

*of a world where there is justice and where ev'ryone is free to build and grow and love and simply have enough the world will change when we dream God's Dream.*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

**JUST A MINUTE** *(Today Kaleigh Richer receives her Bible!)*

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

*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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. AMEN.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 9.1-20  
John 21.1-19

## A MESSAGE

"Jesus says, 'Follow Me'"

## THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

The Offertory

*\*Presentation of our Offering and Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
in heav'n above and earth below!  
One God, three persons, we adore:  
to God be praise forevermore!  
(Tune: Old Hundredth)

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**May these gifts, given to ministries of grace,  
be a blessing to friends and strangers,  
those like us and those not,  
those deserving and those not,  
for in this way the love of God reaches all of God's beloved. Amen.**

3

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Entrance Into Prayer*

Leader: God be with you

**Response: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**Response: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us all pray together:

*Pastoral and Silent Prayers*

*Congregational Response to Prayer "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying" No. 305*

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. (sung twice)

## HYMN OF APPROACH

*"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"*

No. 422

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE** *[All are welcome to this table, for Christ extends the invitation and bids all ages, seekers, searchers, firm faith, or hurting heart to join in the sharing of the bread and cup. All of the bread is gluten free.]*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP** *[As a sign of our uniqueness before God, partake of the bread as you are served; as a sign of our community in Christ, retain the cup until all have been served.]*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All: Loving God, we thank you for giving us this sacrament of love and unity. Let it nourish our hearts and lives so that more and more, each day, our mouths that have given you praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen your love and kindness may look with compassion on the needs of the world, and our hands which have held the loaf and cup may be work to bring your love more fully to our world. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, our brother, the Christ. Amen.**

## A MOMENT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS TO THE CONGREGATION

### \*HYMN OF DEPARTURE

*"Turn the World Around"*

(Insert)

*(A favorite camp song at Horton Center)*

## BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

\*indicates those that are able may stand

4

**The Vision:** United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

## Our Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of the First Parish United Church of Christ (Congregational), joyfully welcome all who seek to know God in Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In

declaring ourselves as an Open and Affirming Church, we celebrate the sacredness of every person as a child of God.

We welcome all following Jesus' example, including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status, and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background, to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments of baptism and communion, and rites of marriage and funerals.

Through the responsibilities and blessings of being in church community together, we pledge to oppose discrimination and work for justice and inclusion of all persons as we journey in faith.

**The Mission Statement:** United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

**Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255 1-800-273-TALK**  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Altar Flowers are offered to the glory of God, in honor of our children.

Prayer concerns are shared by writing the concern down (cards are in the Narthex and pew racks) and placing the card in the inside end of your aisle or given to a Deacon on Duty Rev. Norma during Sharing a Sign of Peace with One Another.

Deacons for today: Kathy Latchaw, Robin Hamel  
Scripture: Gerri Cannon  
Greeters: Pat & Don Whitten

A REMINDER for families with young children that the Nursery (with a changing table) is available. Speakers may be turned on to hear the service.

5

TODAY:

- We are an Open & Affirming Congregation**, welcoming all to participate fully in the life of our church family, its ministries, fellowship, leadership, worship, no matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey
- Thank you to all of the children for leading us in worship today!**

**Remember, every church activity is an opportunity for YOU to invite, include and involve someone who you know into our shared life here at First Parish Church. You are the face of First Parish Church.**

Be the Church  
Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Forgive often. Reject racism.  
Fight for the powerless.  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.  
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.  
God is still speaking

6

