

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** No. 34  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "HIDDEN CHRIST, ALIVE FOR EVER" (verses 1, 2, 3 and 5) No. 104

**THE BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

**POSTLUDE** "NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD" (from Cantata #79)  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*The Harvest Table has been prepared by the Flower Committee  
and will be donated to fill Community Thanksgiving Baskets.*

**Welcome Guests!** We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in your pew back or at [FirstParishYork.net](http://FirstParishYork.net). You're invited to enjoy refreshments at "coffee hour" in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

**Hearing Assistance:** Devices are available. Please ask a greeter to provide one.

**Nursery Care:** Nursery care provided downstairs for children 4 years old and under.

**Pastoral Care:** If you'd like to meet with a pastor, please call the office at 363-3758 Monday – Friday 9am-2pm. For emergency pastoral care after office hours and on weekends, you may reach one of the pastors by calling 207-358-9776. The pastors are available to make hospital visits and we invite you to let us know if you or a family member would like a visit. Due to hospital confidentiality regulations, the hospital will not inform us unless you ask them to do so.

**Photos and Video:** We regularly take photos and video for use in media. If you would prefer your/your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building. Handicap accessible restrooms are across the way in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

**Sunday School:** All youth ages 4 through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend Sunday School. After the Children's Message, youth meet up with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers make their way to the Fellowship Hall classrooms. After worship, parents are asked to sign out and pick up children in their classrooms. Guests are welcome to attend Sunday School and we ask that parents/guardians fill out a registration form on the first visit; our Deacons will be happy to connect you with someone from Sunday School before the youth make their way over.



180 York Street, York, Maine 03909 ♦ 207-363-3758  
office@firstparishyork.net ♦ www.firstparishyork.net



**First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

*Welcome*

### Vision

Following the way of Jesus, we aspire to *authentically invite, courageously include, and generously serve* all with compassion and grace.

### Mission

Following the way of Jesus, we celebrate *inspirational worship; create life-changing experiences* for children, youth, families, and individuals; and practice *meaningful congregational care*.

*While respecting our diversity, we courageously advocate for justice and mercy, and intentionally respond to the needs of our community and the world.*



## THIS WEEK

**Today, Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Worship/Gratitude Sunday  
10:45am Thanksgiving Dinner of Gratitude  
11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal  
1pm Youth Group-grades 9-12  
5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (full)  
7pm Combined Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

8am Zumba  
8:30am Yoga  
5-7pm Table of Plenty  
6pm Combined Choir Warm-Up  
7pm Interfaith Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving

**Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Zumba  
9:30am Women's Bible Study  
5pm Conversations on the Bible

**Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Aerobics

**Thanksgiving Day/Parish Office Closed**

**Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Aerobics

**Parish Office Closed**

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:30am Worship/Advent I/Communion  
5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal



### **Ministers**

*All the Members of the Congregation*

*Leading Worship Today:*

*Rev. Estelle Margarones*

*Pastor Dan Hollis*

### **Staff**

*Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries*

*Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate*

*Janet Cassidy, Church School Coordinator*

### **First Parish Church Lay Leaders**

*Jan Jonas, Moderator*

*Thom Kearns, Vice Moderator*

*Ray Hamlin, Treasurer*

*Susan Mancinelli, Clerk*



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**FAITH FEATURES**

**Thanksgiving Dinner of Gratitude after worship today.** Please join us

**Wreaths, Greens & More Sale:** Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12noon. Help needed December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> making and selling. There will be a handcrafts table again this year. If you sew, quilt, knit, hook, make things from wood, or any other craft, please consider donating. For more information contact Susan Mancinelli-Crafts Table at 351-8641 or [sman1234@twc.com](mailto:sman1234@twc.com). Martha King-Wreaths at 363-7344 or [marthasgarden207@gmail.com](mailto:marthasgarden207@gmail.com).

**Calling All Bakers:** Please consider baking some Christmas goodies (cookies, cakes, pies, muffins, candy) to be sold as part of the annual Wreaths, Greens and More Sale on December 7 (drop-off December 6). Sign up at the Opportunity Table or contact Linda Blake at [lblake50@gmail.com](mailto:lblake50@gmail.com).

**Please Save the Date:** Tuesday, November 26 at 7pm is the Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving at First Parish.

**Helping Through Loose Change:** York Family Fund will be the recipient of your loose change collected during the month of November. The collection boxes are located in the narthex.

**Book Stipend:** 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester College Students who are members of First Parish Church are eligible for a "one time" book stipend from the Diaconate. Applications available in the Parish Office and Opportunity Table or email the office at [office@firstparishyork.net](mailto:office@firstparishyork.net) *Deadline December 13, 2019*

**Christmas Caroling:** Please join us as we go Christmas Caroling to Durgin Pines on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and Sentry Hill on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Both nights we will meet at 5:15 in the front lobby of each place and begin caroling to the residents at around 5:30 pm. Santa hats, caroling books and cards to hand out will be provided. No need to rsvp but if you have any questions contact Nate Cox at 207-216-7005

**Weekly Creation Care Tip:** Replace old incandescent holiday lights with Energy Star Qualified LED light strands. They're brighter, budget friendly (now similar in cost to the old lights) and eco-friendly (use 70% less energy!). They're safer (run cooler) and reduce waste by lasting 10 times longer; and no filaments to break!

Source: Energy.gov (<http://bit.ly.2P6fArk>)



I am the way...

John 14:6

**WAY OUT: THE WAY OF GRATITUDE**

Jesus is not teaching us to stand at the margins and beat our breasts as a way of gaining religious certitude..... He is declaring a new economy, one that neither character recognized. For the tax collector had also internalized the social identity epitomized by the Temple. It is not the tax collector’s speech, but Jesus’ “I tell you” that marks the irruption of the truth here.

*Walter Wink, “The End of Breast-Beating,” Sojourners*

A parable is a story that the teller intends to be compared with another. Jesus intends for the hearer to hold in parallel with their life these two caricatures of a standup guy and a shirker, the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14). We know which of these characters our congregation relies on. We know which one pays the bills, teaches in the church school, pounds nails at Habitat, and visits the sick. The standup guy moves from practicing the way of righteousness to being self-righteous with his us-them language and thanking God that, “I am not like other people.”

From the parable, we don’t know if the shirker even notices the contemptuous comparison of the self-righteous one as he cries out, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” Unlike the self-righteous one praying from the abundance of his achievements, the shirker is praying from his need. Knowing our proclivity to live by comparison, whether it is the Joneses or the person 25 years our junior, Jesus tells this story. What is the way out from living by comparison? Gratitude.

People who are genuinely grateful are never greedy or jealous, never bitter or small, not self-centered or hateful. If they can see every day as a gift from God, see what they have done or achieved as made possible by the gifts of God and see what they own as what God has given them for a while, they are who we call gracious people. The way of gratitude is the way out from the bitterness of comparing and measuring. Being grateful leaves you free and transformed. From there, stepping into generosity is a small step.

‘I tell you; this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.’



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