



# **First Parish Church, Congregational**

**On the Village Green**

**Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts**

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**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
March 1, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

**ORGAN PRELUDE:** *“Mercy” (La Grace)*  
*Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Let us look to the life, the passion, the death,  
and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**For Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,  
who for the joy of what was coming, endured the cross.**

Let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely,  
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**Let us follow the example of Jesus Christ,  
as we prepare for the mystery of his Redeeming Sacrifice.**

**\*HYMN:** *“Be Now My Vision”*

*NCH #451*

**\*GENERAL CONFESSION:**

Merciful God, we have been wrong;  
we have strayed from your paths like lost sheep.  
We have followed too often our own ways  
and have not followed yours.  
We have not done things we should have;  
we have done things we should not have done.

So, Dear God, have mercy on us.

Forgive us when we confess.

Restore us, so that, the words of our mouths  
and the reflections of our hearts  
may be acceptable to you,  
O Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

**\*WORDS OF ABSOLUTION**

Leader: **God hears the confession of our hearts and our lips.**

**Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven and  
by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. Amen.**

## **\*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 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Joel 2:12-17

pg. 1415

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 51

NCH #657 black

**ANTHEM:** *“Wondrous Love”*

*Appalachian folk hymn (from Southern Harmony, 1835)*

*Arranged by Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free

I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

pg. 1503

**REFLECTION:** *“A Spiritual Pilgrimage”*

**\*SERVICE OF HIPOLYTUS**

**\*HYMN:** *“Abide With Me”*

*PH #209 (v. 1-3)*

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*HYMN:** *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name”*

*PH #60*

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE:** *“Forty Days and Forty Nights”*  
*Tune attr. Martin Herbst, 1676*  
*Setting by Robert Lau (b. 1943)*