

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, September 13, 2020
10:00 am**

Prelude

"Reverie"

Debussy

Welcome

Hymn

"God, You Have Set Us" (v.1,2,5)

God, you have set us in this time and place
Called us as stewards of your love and grace
O keep us faithful, set our souls afire
And by your Spirit all our work inspire

We dedicate this work of human hand
Built for your glory, may it firmly stand
Let truth be preached and justice rightly done
In Christ our Savior make us truly one

So may the world become our neighborhood
Each wishing each the right, the true, the good
Word, font, and table calling us to be
Bound up in Christ, in Christ set boldly free

Opening Prayer (together)

Holy One, You call us to join together in being Your hands, heart and voice in the world. You call us to be carriers of compassion, justice, forgiveness, mercy, hope and love throughout Your creation. It is not an easy call at times, but it is one that the world desperately needs us to answer.

So as we begin this new fall as a spiritual community, help us to answer that call more consistently and carefully, even when our efforts are resisted, dismissed or ignored.

For it is our purpose. It is our reason for being.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, the One You sent to embody that purpose – that reason for being – for us. We pray to You now with the words He gave us...

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.

Solo

"Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Doerksen

Paul Knox, soloist

Come, now is the time to worship, come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship, come, just as you are before your God.

Come

Come, now is the time to worship, come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship, come, just as you are before your God.

Come.

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.

Come, now is the time to worship, come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship, come, just as you are before your God.

Come now.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"Simple Gifts"

Shaker Hymn, arr. Wolaver

¹At that time the LORD said to me, "Carve out two tablets of stone like the former ones, and come up to me on the mountain, and make an ark of wood. ²I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets, which you smashed, and you shall put them in the ark." ³So I made an ark of acacia wood, cut two tablets of stone like the former ones, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand. ⁴Then he wrote on the tablets the same words as before, the ten commandments that the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me. ⁵So I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark that I had made; and there they are, as the LORD commanded me.

¹²So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to keep the commandments of the LORD your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.

¹⁴Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the LORD your God, the earth with all that is in it, ¹⁵yet the LORD set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today.

¹⁶Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. ¹⁷For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords,

the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, ¹⁸ who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. ¹⁹ You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹ He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

Message

The Sacrament of Communion

Solo

"Sometimes a Light Surprises"

Courtney

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Sometimes a light surprises a Christian while she sings; it is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings: When comforts are declining, He grants the soul again a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue the theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new; set free from present tomorrow, we cheerfully can say, let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through; who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people too; beneath the spreading heavens no creature is but fed; and He who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their wanted fruit should bear, though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there; yet, God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice; for, while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice, I cannot but rejoice.

Blessing

- We once again welcome Dr. Bonnie Anderson a guest musical leader this morning.

Bonnie has a varied career playing chamber music recitals, church services, weddings, memorial services, and teaching students ages 12-86. She especially enjoys collaborating with musicians from the Boston Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. Highlights of her collaborations include a performance of Hindemith's *Trio for Saxophone, Viola and Piano* with Branford Marsalis and Christof Huebner at the Nantucket Musical Arts Society Series, a recital with trumpeter Joseph Foley at the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra Unleashed Series in Houston, recitals with Four-Hand Piano partner Stella Owen in Boston, and pianist with Music on the Hill Chamber Music Festival in Rhode Island. As orchestral pianist, Bonnie performs with Orchestra of Indian Hill and as substitute keyboard player with Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Concord Orchestra, and Portland Symphony.

An enthusiastic educator, Bonnie teaches at Phillips Andover Academy, at her studio in Manchester-by-the-Sea, and online via FaceTime and Zoom. Projects during quarantine have included two-keyboard outdoor concerts with Stella Owen, online workshops with students, and preparing for a solo video project at Shalin Liu Performance Center. Bonnie's recordings include a solo piano disc, collaborative disc with Joe Foley (trumpet/cornet/flugelhorn), and sample recording with cellist Trevor Handy. Bonnie attended the Juilliard School, Michigan State University, French Piano Institute in Paris, and received her doctorate in piano performance at Boston University.

- We will also be celebrating "Virtual Communion" today. You are invited to prepare and have ready a piece of whatever kind of bread you wish, as well as any kind of juice you have available (or if you wish, coffee or tea). Then at the appropriate time you will be invited to consume those.
- We encourage all members and friends of First Parish to remain with us immediately after the conclusion of our Worship this morning for our Virtual Friendship Time on Zoom. You can join the meeting by computer, tablet, iPad, or smart phone by clicking this link <https://zoom.us/j/720983063> Password- 244108
- Dial in with your phone and join using just audio at this number 1-301-715-8592 (Meeting ID- 720 983 063, Password- 244108). We welcome you for this time of additional community connection.
- "Deacon Fund" Support and Assistance – the "Deacon Fund" remains a vital means of assistance to FPC members in need, especially in this

