

**First Parish Church, Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Worship Celebration  
Sunday, September 20, 2020  
10:00 am**

**Prelude**

*"Voluntary V"*

Stanley

**Welcome**

**Hymn**

*"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"*

Come, O fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come  
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God  
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you  
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own

## **Opening Prayer (together)**

We come together this day, Holy One, to hear You speak to us; to better understand Your call for our lives; to offer our gratitude. And to bless You.

We bless You, O God, with our hearts, minds and spirits. We bless You for forgiving our failings. We bless You for Your ever present help in times of trouble. We bless You for your constant love and healing hand. And we bless You for Your grace – for the undeserved, unearned, unmerited blessings You offer us.

Help us to open ourselves up to that grace. Help us to avoid taking it for granted. And help us to offer that same grace to others.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, the One You sent as forgiveness, healing, love and grace embodied. 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**

*"I'll Walk With God"*

Brodzsky

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

I'll walk with God from this day on, His helping hand, I'll lean upon  
This is my prayer, my humble plea; may the Lord be ever with me  
There is no death though eyes grow dim, there is no fear when I'm near  
to Him.

I'll lean on Him forever and He'll forsake me never.

He will not fail me as long as my faith is strong; what ever road I may  
walk alone

I'll walk with God, I'll take His hand, I'll talk with God, He'll understand.

I'll pray to Him, each day to Him and He'll hear the words that I say.

His hand will guide my throne and rod and I'll never walk alone, while I  
walk with God!

## **Prayer Intentions**

### **Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer**

**Music Meditation**

*"Jupiter" (from 'The Planets')*

Holst

## **The Gospels**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

**(New Living Translation)**

<sup>1</sup>"For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work.

<sup>3</sup> "At nine o'clock in the morning he was passing through the marketplace and saw some people standing around doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> So he hired them, telling them he would pay them whatever was right at the end of the day. <sup>5</sup> So they went to work in the vineyard. At noon and again at three o'clock he did the same thing.

<sup>6</sup> "At five o'clock that afternoon he was in town again and saw some more people standing around. He asked them, 'Why haven't you been working today?' <sup>7</sup> "They replied, 'Because no one hired us.'"The landowner told them, 'Then go out and join the others in my vineyard.'

<sup>8</sup> "That evening he told the foreman to call the workers in and pay them, beginning with the last workers first. <sup>9</sup> When those hired at five o'clock were paid, each received a full day's wage. <sup>10</sup> When those hired first came to get their pay, they assumed they would receive more. But they, too, were paid a day's wage. <sup>11</sup> When they received their pay, they protested to the owner, <sup>12</sup> 'Those people worked only one hour, and yet you've paid them just as much as you paid us who worked all day in the scorching heat.'

<sup>13</sup> "He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? <sup>14</sup> Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. <sup>15</sup> Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?'

<sup>16</sup> "So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."

## Message

**Solo**

*"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"*

Akers

Paul Knox, soloist

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord. There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know you feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with Your love. And for these blessings, we lift our hearts in praise. Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

## Blessing

- We extend our tremendous appreciation to Liz Loomis for the recent dahlia arrangements on the altar. These flowers, from her garden, beautified our Sanctuary for these past 9 weeks, including this morning. Fresh flowers, particularly during our 'virtual Sundays at church', have been inspiring to see.

Thanks so much, Liz!

- 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

