

**First Parish Church, Congregational**

**United Church of Christ**

**Worship Celebration**

**Sunday, September 27, 2020**

**10:00 am**

**Prelude**                    *"Sheep May Safely Graze"* (from *Cantata 208*)                    Bach

**Welcome**

**Hymn**    *"Born of God, Eternal Savior"*

Born of God, Eternal Savior, source of life, of truth and grace  
Human One, whose birth incarnate hallows all our human race  
Come again, in all your glory; come to us, inspire and lead  
Fill us with your loving-kindness; heal our wrongs, and help our need

Christ, as you have lived for others, so may we for others live  
Freely have your gifts been granted, freely may your servants give  
All the wealth that we may gather is for use in causes just  
We are stewards of the bounty loaned to us in solemn trust

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, granting love and joy and peace  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease  
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain  
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure, shame our selfish greed for gain

See the Christ-like host advancing, high and lowly, great and small

Linked in bonds of common service, answering the Savior's call  
Jesus Christ, we hear your pleading that your people should be one  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth, your will be done

### **Opening Prayer (together)**

Holy One, You call us together this day as a community of Your people. You call us to be Your hands, voice, heart and spirit in the world, this nation, our neighborhoods, and in each others' lives. You call us to choose and model a different way of life - a way that rejects violence of hand and tongue against those who look, speak or believe differently than we do.

It is a life of both certainty and uncertainty. It calls us to trust in the certainty of Your presence, strength and care. But it also cautions us against certainty in our own ways; our own opinions; our own judgements; our certainty that we are living as You call us to.

So bless us, O God, with sacred certainty in Your presence, strength and care. And at the same time, bless us with the sacred uncertainty we need to be willing to listen, change, and grow. The sacred uncertainty we need to move closer and closer to being the people You need us to be.

We ask all this in the name of our Brother, Teacher and Leader – the One who gave us the words we say to You now...

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**

*"On Eagle's Wings"*

Joncas

Paul Knox, soloist

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Chorus:

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun and hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you and famine will bring you  
no fear  
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

Chorus:

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by  
day;  
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

Chorus:

For to His angels He's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Chorus:

## **Prayer Intentions**

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

**Music Meditation**      *"Be Thou My Vision"* Irish Melody, arr. Evanovich

## **The Gospels                      John 13:21-30**

<sup>21</sup> After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking.

<sup>23</sup> One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; <sup>24</sup> Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. <sup>25</sup> So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do."

<sup>28</sup> Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. <sup>29</sup> Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. <sup>30</sup> So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

## **The New Testament**

## **Acts 9:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

**(Both from New Revised Standard Version Bible Translation)**

## Message

Solo

*"Consideration"*

Dorsey

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

I have no one to which I run, only the Lord whom I can turn. Lord, in your vast consideration, consider me.

Tide rolling high billows defy, Lord, hear my pleading, don't pass me by. Lord, when you smile on all creation, consider me.

Mad winds may blow; mad breakers roar; they beat on every side. One thing I know and to be sure in Thee my soul can hide. When I'm alone without a home, friends and my loved ones all are gone. Lord, when you give out heav'n reservations, consider me.

You know my need, you know my deeds, you know my wishes, let me succeed. Lord, when you bless those of the nation, consider me.

When in the storm let me be calm, trusting Thy promise, do help me on. Lord, when the world break all relations, consider me.

Lighten may flash; wild waves may dash; the tempest raging high. Send from above whispers of love; attend my feeble cry. The day will come, life will be done, Lord in your presence let me be one. Lord, when you give out heav'n reservations, consider me.



housing payment assistance to income eligible Manchester residents in response to job and income loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consistent with its mission to support and promote community affordable housing, the MAHT is reaching out to income eligible residents who are experiencing housing rent payment issues.

The MAHT can and wants to help during this difficult and uncertain time. For further information please contact Action, Inc. at 978-282-1000 or live chat at [www.actioninc.org](http://www.actioninc.org)<<http://www.actioninc.org>.