

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Special Music Worship Celebration
Sunday, September 6, 2020
9:00 am**

Prelude

"Prelude in C"

J.S. Bach

"Ave Maria"

Gounod

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Welcome

Hymn

"When in Our Music God is Glorified" (v.1-3)

When in our music God is glorified
And adoration leaves no room for pride
It is as though the whole creation cried
Alleluia

How often, making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia

So has the church, in liturgy and song
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue
Alleluia

Opening Prayer (together)

God of compassion and love, You promise that Your presence will be with us throughout our lives. You promise to travel with us every step in both the best and worst of times. That promise lifts our spirits and encourages our souls.

There are times though, when our trust in Your promised presence falters. We fear we may not be good enough. We worry that You might turn away.

Remind us, Holy One, this and all our days, that You are faithful even when we might not be. Remind us that Your love is stronger than our fears and worries. Remind us that Your promise is forever.

We pray this in the Spirit of the One – Jesus - who came to show us and teach us what Your promise looks and acts like. We pray 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

"The House I Live In" Robinson, words by Lewis

Paul Knox, soloist

What is America to me?

A name, a map, or a flag I see, a certain word, democracy

What is America to me?

The house I live in, a plot of earth, a street, the grocer and the butcher

And the people that I meet; the children in the playground, the faces
that I see;

All races, all religions, that's America to me.

The place I work in, the worker at my side, the little town or city

Where my people lived and died; the "howdy" and the handshake,

The air of feeling free, the right to speak my mind out,

That's America to me.

The things I see about me, the big things and the small,

The little corner newsstand and the house a mile tall;

The wedding and the churchyard, the laughter and the tears,

The dream that's been a growin' for a hundred fifty years:

The town I live in - the street, the house, the room;

The pavement of the city, or a garden all in bloom,

The church, the school, the clubhouse. the million lights I see;

But especially the people,

That's America to me.

Music Meditation *"Three Movements from "Forest Scenes"* Schumann

1. Entry

2. The Prophet Bird

3. Farewell

The Psalms

Psalm 92:1-4

(New Revised Standard Version translation)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Solo

"El Shaddai"

Card, Thompson

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonia, age to age you're still the same,
By the power of the name. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai,
We will praise and lift you high, El Shaddai.

Through your love and through the ram, You saved the son of Abraham;
Through the power of your hand, turned the sea into dry land.

To the outcast on her knees, You were the God who really sees,
And by your might, You set your children free.

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai,

Age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name.

El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai, we will praise and lift you
high,

El Shaddai.

Through the years you've made it clear, that the time of Christ was near,
Though the people couldn't see what Messiah ought to be.

Though your word contained the plan, they just could not understand
Your most awesome work was done through the frailty of your Son.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na Adonai,
Age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai,

I will praise yo 'till I die, El Shaddai. El Shaddai, El Shaddai, El-elyon na
Adonai, age to age you're still the same, by the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai, Erkamka na Adonai,
I will praise you 'till I die. El Shaddai.

Closing Song *"Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God)"*
van Tander

Postlude *"Minuet" (from 'Don Giovanni')* Mozart

- 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.

- **This is the final Sunday of our Summer Worship start time of 9am. Next Sunday, September 13, we return to our regular 10am start time.**
- The Church Bell Newsletter will be published and sent during the 2nd week of September. Look for announcements on Fall programming.
- "Deacon Fund" Support and Assistance – the "Deacon Fund" remains a vital means of assistance to FPC members in need, especially in this difficult and uncertain time. Contributions can be made to "First Parish Church" with "Deacon Fund" in the memo section, and mailed to First Parish Church P.O. Box 187 Manchester, MA 01944. In addition, if a member of our spiritual community is in need, please contact Rev. Mark to discuss available support.
- You can contribute to the work of First Parish Church or pay your pledge @ [PayPal.Me/FPChurchManchester](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.firstparishchurchmanchester.org)
- Manchester Affordable Housing Trust Announces Emergency Rental Housing Payment Assistance - The Manchester Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT), in collaboration with Action, Inc., a Gloucester-based human and social services agency, is offering short-term rental 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>.