

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Sunday, October 11, 2020
10:00 am**

Prelude *"What God Ordains is Always Good"* Pachelbel

Welcome

Hymn *"Praise to the Living God"*

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in
flight
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane
God toils where e'er we toil, in home, and mart and mill
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still

Praise to the living God, around, within, above
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we gather together today, from both near and far, as a community of Your people.

We come from many different places and backgrounds, but You claim us all as Your own daughters and sons. We come with many different gifts, talents and capabilities, but You love and value each of us equally. We come with many different hopes, needs, joys and concerns, but You care for all of us the same.

Lead us to claim others as our brothers and sisters. Lead us to use our different gifts, talents and capabilities well, and help others do the same. Lead us to care for and nurture others' hopes, needs, joys and concerns as You care for and nurture ours.

We may be different in many ways, O God, but we are the same in and through You. And that is what matters most.

We pray all this in the name of the One You sent to show us and teach us the Way to life in and through You – Jesus – the One who gave us these words...

Solo

"The Lord's Prayer"

Malotte

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation

"Be Thou Still"

Franck

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

Be thou still, and learn of God. He will guide thy daily living, when in faith ye turn to Him. Therefore daily thanks be giving. He will all thy hopes fulfill.

Be thou still, though dark thy way. Soon the light of love will brighten, as in peace ye dwell each day. Soon the weight of sin will lighten. Seek to do thy Father's will.

Be thou still. In this quiet learn of His will. Be thou still.

⁹ One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

² He summoned a man named Ziba, who had been one of Saul's servants. "Are you Ziba?" the king asked. "Yes sir, I am," Ziba replied.

³ The king then asked him, "Is anyone still alive from Saul's family? If so, I want to show God's kindness to them." Ziba replied, "Yes, one of Jonathan's sons is still alive. He is crippled in both feet."

⁴ "Where is he?" the king asked. "In Lo-debar," Ziba told him, "at the home of Makir son of Ammiel."

⁵ So David sent for him and brought him from Makir's home. ⁶ His name was Mephibosheth¹; he was Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson. When he came to David, he bowed low to the ground in deep respect. David said, "Greetings, Mephibosheth." Mephibosheth replied, "I am your servant."

⁷ "Don't be afraid!" David said. "I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!" ⁸ Mephibosheth bowed respectfully and exclaimed, "Who is your servant, that you should show such kindness to a dead dog like me?"

⁹ Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba and said, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his

family.¹⁰ You and your sons and servants are to farm the land for him to produce food for your master's household. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, will eat here at my table." (Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

¹¹ Ziba replied, "Yes, my lord the king; I am your servant, and I will do all that you have commanded." And from that time on, Mephibosheth ate regularly at David's table, like one of the king's own sons.

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica. From then on, all the members of Ziba's household were Mephibosheth's servants.¹³ And Mephibosheth, who was crippled in both feet, lived in Jerusalem and ate regularly at the king's table.

Message

Solo

"Largo" (from 'New World Symphony')

Dvorak

Blessing

- The flowers on the altar today are offered with gratitude in honor of all the healthcare workers who put themselves at risk every day for the sake of the rest of us. This isn't exactly what they signed up for when they chose healthcare. Many are actually exposed to patients with the virus, not just to the fear that someone they pass on the street or in a grocery store might have it (like the rest of us), and they risk exposing not just themselves but their families. We have all

experienced real stress but the stress they and their families have experienced has taken a great toll. We are all deeply indebted.

- 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 difficult and uncertain time. Contributions can be made “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/paytothecharity?charity=282490321)
- 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>.